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Carlisle Residents Who Became Members of Baptist Society, Chelmsford - 1824.

We know that some of the Carlisle residents were worshiping with the Baptists in Chelmsford when the new Meetinghouse was built in 1810, and that half of their "Meetinghouse Tax" for the erection of the building was abated because they worshiped elsewhere and would use the new Meetinghouse for civil purposes only.

It was apparently not until after the revision of the laws of the Commonwealth that the Chelmsford Baptist Society, people who did not sympathize religiously with their First Parish could be legally organized. Then it was also, that the Carlisle people or any others could definitely withdraw from the first religious society where they lived and be freed from all financial obligations there, to unite with the one of their choice.

A document sent to the Town Clerk and Assessors of Carlisle in 1824, records the names of Carlisle members of the Baptist Society in Chelmsford at that time. Following is a copy of the paper, the original of which is preserved in a file of ancient documents in the care of the Town Clerk.

"To the town clerk and assessors of the town of Carlisle As we the Baptist society in the town Chelmsford and its vicinity have availed ourselves of the privilages of the law entitled an act respecting public worship and religious freedom and an act in addition thereunto passed Feb 16th 1824. Have agreable thereunto formed ourselves into a society and have this 12th

day of April chosen our Clerk and other
nedcessary offercers for conducting the
business of said Society and for the
promotion of tranquility and Christian
friendship and the good of society have
here inserted the names of persons be-
longing to said society inhabitents and
resident in the town Carlisle which is
submited to your notice by
Dated at westford apr 21st Levi Wright (Society Clerk
in the year of our Lord 1824

Isaac Duren
Benjamin Hutchins
Thomas Hutchins
Oliver Hutchins
Joshua Miller
Benjamin Baldwin
John Duren
Joseph Wheeler
Jacob Blaisdell
Joseph Duren
Salathial Byam

Elias Barron
Mary Heald
M & B crosby

I certify that the with named persons
of the town of Carlisle are members of the
religious society in the town of Chelmsford
called Baptist.
Dated at westford Apr 21st
in the year of our Lord 1824 Levi wright Clerk"

Thus we have preserved a record of the
first group of people who withdrew from
the First Religious Society In Carlisle.

Town Records. Book 5 - Page 357 - 13th

" " " Page 359 - 13th

" " Book 6 - Page 22 - second art.

" " " Page 24

The Common 1824 and 1828

In 1824 and again in 1828 The Townspeople took action to preserve and improve the appearance of the "common" around their Meetinghouse. At the March meeting in 1824 on and article "To see if the Town will choose a committee to see that the common in the Middle of said Carlisle may be kept clear from Lumber, &c or act on the article as they may think proper" "chose Isaac Allen Benjamin Barrett Jur and Asa Nutting a committee whose duty it is to see that the common near the Meeting house in said Carlisle is kept clear of lumber &c."

The second article at a November Town meeting in 1828 was "To know if said Town will raise any money to improve the appearance of the common near the meeting house in said Carlisle." It was" voted to raise one hundred & twenty Dollars to improve the appearance of the common. Then voted that one hundred Dollars should be laid out in work and twenty Dollars in money, the assessors to assess the hundred Dollars and the several surveyors of highways are to see that the same is worked out on the Common at 75 cents for eight hours labor. Then voted to choose a committee of three to superintend the laying said hundred and twenty Dollars Chose Capt T. Green Willm Wilkins & Capt A. Fletcher for said Committee"

Town Records
Book 5. Page 365 - 5th

Town Records - Book 5 - Page 398 - Last order

" " " " Page 391 - 3d

" " " " Page 415 — 2d

" " " Page 404 - 4th order

" " " " 405 - 1st order

" " " Page 429 - 3rd order

Meetinghouse Repaired and Painted - 1824-1825

In 1824 and 1825 further repairs were made at the Meetinghouse. At a Town Meeting April 5, 1824 it was "voted to authorize the Selectmen to take down the curtains round the pulpit windows" which had no doubt hung there since the building was new in 1811.

Some slight repairs must have been necessary in connection with the Bell, for an order to pay Timothy Meek $5.47 included work done on the Roads more than his Highway tax in 1825 "cash paid for drilling tools and powder, and "fixing the Meetinghouse Bell."

The principal work done at this time was the painting of the Meetinghouse for the first time since its construction. At a Town Meeting May 2, 1825 Mr John Jacobs John Nelson Esq^r and Mr Paul Forbush were chosen a committee "to paint the Meetinghouse in case they can get paints & oil Reasonable" The $100. voted at this meeting for the expense of painting, was later appropriated to other uses, and it was voted Apr. 3, 1826, "to raise five hundred and sixty five dollars to pay Rev. Paul Litchfield his Salary and for other expenses and to defray the cost of painting the Meetinghouse the last year."

Some idea of the cost of individual items connected with the painting is gained from orders to the Town Treasurer to pay to various people sums for materials and work. Capt Aaron Fletcher received $1.42 due to him for nails spikes and use of boards &c while painting the Meetinghouse". John Nelson Esq was paid $5.63 "for his services as one of the committee chosen to get the Meeting house painted. cash paid for bringing up paints oil &c as per his account." John Jacobs received $5.62 "for his paying Daniel Shattock

Town Records. Book 5 - Page 395

" " " " Page 403 - 3rd order

" " " " Page 410 - Last order

Town Records Book 5 - Page 437 - 2nd order

for some glass and paints for the Meetinghouse, and also #3.94 "for his services as one of the committee chosen by the Town to get the Meetinghouse painted and for a ladder broke at the Meetinghouse & fifty cents being deducted out of his account for Ropes he sold." Paul Forbush painted the Meeting house floor for one dollar, and we know that the usual refreshments were served the workers by the fact that Capt Ezekiel Nickles received #4..39 "being for Rum and Sugar and other articles about the Meeting house while painting." Capt. Ezekiel Nickless also received "twelve Dollars & seventy five cents due to him for boarding the painters while painting the Meetinghouse eight weeks and three days in the whole."

The two largest orders connected with the painting are as follows:

"65..28 Carlisle March 26th 1827

Mr. Benjamin Barrett Jur Collectors for said Carlisle Sir please to pay Mr William Green 2nd sixty five Dollars and twenty eight cents it being for money and interest on the same that Lea John Jacobs paid Mr Bigilow for painting the Meetinghouse in 1825 the receipt for said money was tra(n)sfered from said Jacobs to said Green at a late settlement made between them and this shall be your discharge for that sum.

By order - John Heald Town Clerk"

The other order is also to Mr. Benjamin Barrett Jur Collectors, and is dated December 10th 1828-

"Sir if you please you will appropriate to your own use of the Munisth money committed to you to collect one hundred & thirty five Dollars and sixty two cents due to you for money you advanced to pay for Painting the Meetinghouse and interest

on the same after deducting out of your account thirty Dollars for a bbl oil your father had."

Death of Rev. Paul Litchfield - 1827 - Something of his life in Carlisle

The Rev. Paul Litchfield, first settled pastor in Carlisle died November 5, 1827 at the age of 75, just two days before the 46th anniversary of his ordination.

At the funeral on November 9th the sermon was delivered by John N. Church D.D. pastor of the Church in Pelham, New Hampshire. The sermon was later printed in pamphlet form, and one of the original pamphlets may be seen in the Library Historical Collection (No. 296) a copy which was formerly owned by the late Mr. Austin Nash. It is entitled:

"The Devoted Servant of Christ
A
Sermon
Delivied At The Funeral of
The Rev. Paul Litchfield
of Carlisle
Who Died on the Fifth and Was
Buried on the Ninth of November, 1827
Aged 75
By John N. Church D.D.
Pastor of the Church in Pelham, N. H."

Rev. Mr. Church said in part: "He possessed a strong discriminating mind. He was fond of deep thought. It was not his manner to glide along on the surface of a subject. He preferred more thorough investigations and discussions. The ablest works on theology were his favorite study. His views of the essential doctrines of the Bible were distinct and well arranged in his mind, and he had the talent of presenting these doctrines to others with plainness and force. --- Christian principles appeared to influence him in all the walks of life and in the discharge of relative duties. --- He manifested much affection and kindness in his family. He was affectionate and kind to his other relatives. He was a lover of hospitality and of good men. His Christian brethren and other friends were made so welcome and entertained so kindly in his house that they could afterwards call with pleasure. --- You will long and affectionately remember him and the things which he taught. Let him still speak to you. Walk in love, my dearly beloved, as Christ hath loved you."

The Rev. Paul Litchfield was buried in the Old Central Burying Ground where his resting place can easily be found near the crest of the hill, marked by a tall slate stone bearing the following inscription:

Erected
to the memory of
Rev. Paul
Litchfield
Pastor of the Church

Tolland Records Book 12. Page 344. Article 24.

in Carlisle for the
space of forty-six
years & 8 deceased
Nov. 5, 1827
Æt. 75.

With a firm discriminating mind, zealous for the distinguishing doctines of revelation, he "stood ... st in one spirit striving for the faith of the gospel."

The late William F. Litchfield of Maynard erected a memorial to his great grandfather, Rev. Paul Litchfield, and provided in various ways for the beautifying of the Old Cemetery where he is buried. In 1923 Mr. William Litchfield had erected in the Central Burying Ground a slate seat with a rustic stone canopy. Inside, set in a stone taken from the Litchfield farm in Carlisle is a bronze tablet inscribed:

In loving memory of
Rev. Paul Litchfield
First minister in the
Town of Carlisle
1781 - 1827
Erected by his great grandson
William F. Litchfield
1923

A stone in the wall at the front of the Cemetery was marked with its name and date, "Central Burying Ground 1784" and shrubs and flowers, purchased by Mr. Litchfield and lovingly planned and cared for by Mrs. Mary A. Green were set out.

At his death Mr. William Litchfield left money for the perpetual care of his great grandfather's burial place, at the Annual Town Meeting, Feb. 10, 1936 it was voted "to accept from the estate of William F. Litchfield, late of Maynard, Mass., the sum of five hundred dollars for the perpetu-

al care of the lot in the "Old Cemetery" where are buried Rev. Paul Litchfield and Roland Litchfield; the said sum to be kept intact and the income therefrom to be used for the care of said lot and so much of said income as is not needed for the care of said lot to be used for the perpetual care of the surroundings of said lot and for the care of the Cemetery in general."

Vital statistics tell us that Rev. Paul Litchfield was twice married, first on Feb. 2, 1778 to Miss Mary Bailey of Scituate, who died July 27, 1809, and second to Mrs. Sarah Capen of Braintree whom he married October 12, 1811. He had six children, five sons and a daughter who died in 1790 at the age of three.

The only available description of Mr. Litchfield's personal appearance is by the late James Sullivan Russell, once teacher of mathematics in the Lowell High School. Mr. Russell was born in Carlisle in 1807 on what is now (1942) the Herbert Hutton farm on Russell Street in the old house which formerly stood near the lilacs on the opposite side of the road from Mr. Hutton's house. Mr. Russell was twenty years old when Mr. Litchfield died so that he remembered him well and described him thus:

"He was tall long-limbed, broad but thin chested, with silver hair combed back and hanging gracefully down over his coat collar. He dressed in a black broad-skirted cut-away coat with ministerial bands or ruffles. He wore a long vest and knee breeches with knee buckles and long black silk hose. His shoes were large and were also adorned with silver buckles. Three-

Town Records. Book 2. Page 385 - Jury order.

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 313 - No 15.

inches square: and crowning all this costume was a Three-cornered hat."

All too little has been recorded about this man who was the first settled minister in Carlisle and who served its interests so wisely and so well that through the town Records (which were also the Parish Records) of forty-six years, found in five thick volumes, there not once appears the faintest suggestion of dissatisfaction or criticism of the pastor. It is true that this was in a day when it was the rule rather than the exception for ministers to settle in parishes for life or for a long term, but it was also at a time when the inhabitants of Carlisle expressed themselves in Town Meeting freely and explicitly on every subject of common interest. The Records in their lack of references to Mr. Litchfield, as well as in the little which is said about him, bear witness to the fact that he was unquestionably beloved and deeply respected by his parishioners.

The most frequent references to Mr. Litchfield in the Town Records had to do with paying him his quarterly salary of #66.67 or to arranging for the supply of firewood, which was annually either furnished or paid for by the Town according to agreement. In September 1795, the order for Mr. Litchfield's salary appeared for the first time in dollars and cents. Previously the orders for his salary had been recorded in pounds, shillings and pence.

In 1794 the School Master boarded at Mr. Litchfield's for a time according to the following order:

"Carlisle May the 19. 1794

To Mr Samuel Green District Treasurer or

The information was provided by Mrs. Jan Fuhr of Carlisle, obtained from the Secretary's Book of the Carlisle Library Society sent to him some years ago by Mrs. Pamela S. Cuddlette who found it in the attic of the house where lived the last Secretary of the Society, Frederick Warren. The book sent by Mrs. Cuddlette to others in more recent years has been lost so that it is desirable to preserve the facts given here.

Successor in that office Sir please to pay out of the Districts money to the Rev. Paul Litchfield twenty five shillings for his Boarding a School Master five weeks the present year when keeping School in the Northerly School Squadron in said District and this shall discharge you for that sum £1:5:0 By order of the Selectmen Asa Parlin District Clerk"

It is of particular interest to know that Rev. Mr. Litchfield was the first president and very likely the originator of the first Library Society in Carlisle. In 1797 a group "convinced that a circulating library may be of singular utility for the diffusion of useful knowledge" formed a Society to be called the Carlisle Library Society. The Rev. Paul Litchfield was the first President chosen December 28, 1797 and John Green was the first Librarian. A Committee of five was chosen to buy books. The President was to be chosen annually by ballot but the Librarian was appointed annually and was also to serve as Secretary and Treasurer. The duties were similar to those of present day officers.

According to the rules every Subscriber paid one dollar and fifty cents which entitled him to one right, and any person was entitled to any number of rights by paying proportionately, and each member had a vote for each right. Also, any one or others belonging to this District or an adjacent town, could buy rights.

Paragraph 11 of the by-laws provided that "No book shall be admitted into the library the object of which is to endeavor to weaken the evidence of Divine Revelation; neither shall any be admitted in which a vindication

of the doctrine that all men shall finally be saved is attempted nor any which directly tends to injure the morals of youth."

For defraying expenses of increasing the library each member paid "one sixteenth of a dollar" for every book taken out and a further "one sixteenth of a dollar" for each week a book was kept out after the time fixed for its return. In 1802 it was voted that each member pay to it twenty cents a year for each right owned for the entire years and this amount varied thereafter from 12½ cents to 25 cents a year.

At his option any member could have the original amount of his payments for rights, refunded in any books of the library at their original cost, except that no set of volumes was to be broken, or a member could convey his rights to some other person, who would have the same privileges as the original subscriber.

In 1820 it was voted to have one hundred catalogs printed. The Society continued until January 1st, 1844, when it was voted to sell the library at auction.

Through the years Mr. Litchfield maintained his interest in the Massachusetts Missionary Society. At its Annual Meeting in Boston May 28, 1805, the sermon was "By Paul Litchfield, A. M., Pastor of the Church in Carlisle". A copy of the sermon will be found in the Library Historical Collection No. 178. At his death, Mr. Litchfield bequeathed "to the Massachusetts domestic Missionary Society one undivided half of my farm lying in the town of Winchendon."

Town Records. Book 4. Page 164 - 8 ly

" " " Page 166. 8 ly

" " Book 4. Pages 223 - 262 - 309.

Copies, letters on file with Town Clerk's Records.
Also see Page 66, this book

Town Records. Book 4. Page 351 - 6 ly.

" " " Page 352 - 6 ly.

For some reason, perhaps because of illness, Mr. Litchfield was unable to preach for a time during 1807. At the Annual Town Meeting on March 7, 1808, an article appeared in the warrant "to see if the Town will agree that Rev. Paul Litchfield may have his whole salery for the year past notwithstanding he has been unable to preach for a certain time." It was "Voted to allow the Rev. Paul Litchfield his whole salery the year past."

For three years, 1809, 1810 and 1811, Mr. Litchfield was chosen as Representative to General Court. In 1812 he wrote to the Selectmen saying "I embrace this opportunity, through you to express my grateful acknowledgement to the Town of Carlisle for the respect they have manifested toward me in having elected me to represent them in the Legislature of this Commonwealth; and avail myself of the same opportunity to signify that it is not my wish to be considered as a candidate for that purpose the year ensuing." In the same letter Mr. Litchfield offered to pay ten dollars toward the purchase of the new Bell for the Meetinghouse.

For several years beginning in 1812 Mr. Litchfield took an active interest in the welfare of the schools according to the following extracts from the Town Records. On May 4, 1812 on an article "To see if the Town will request the Rev. Paul Litchfield to inspect the schools in the town soon after they are set up and again a little before they are closed," it was "Voted that Mr. Litchfield be requested to attend and inspect the schools in the several school districts when they

Town Records. Book 4. Page 381

" " " Pages 414
417 } 11th

Town Records. Book 5 - Page 418 - 4th

are first set up and again a little before they are closed." A committee chosen "to attend with Mr. Litchfield one for each of the Districts to attend their own in particular and others if they please" consisted of Asa Parlin, Esq. Leonard Green, Lt Ephraim Robbins, Fredrick Blood, Thomas Heald and Isaac Blanchard.

By the year 1813, Mr. Litchfield's attendance with the Committee in inspecting the schools had become the expected proceedure. In that year they "Chose Mr Leonard Green, Mr Paul Fairbush Mr Wm Spalding Lt. John Robbins Lt Zebulun Spalding and Mr Thomas Heald" one from each School district "to visit Schools with Mr. Litchfield."

The next year, 1814 the eleventh article in the Warrant was "to see if the Town will choose a committee to visit the Schools with Mr. Litchfield the ensuing year" and they "Chose the Selectmen a Committee to examine the Schools at the opening & close thereof."

Rev. Mr. Litchfield was one of the five vice presidents of the Bible Society in the County of Middlesex which was organized in March, 1814.

The year before Mr. Litchfield's death the subject of purchasing further land for burial purposes was being considered by the Town. At a meeting on May first 1826, the fourth article was "to know if the town will accept of a peice of land from the Rev. Paul Litchfield, provided the town will fence the same for the use of a burying ground - or chuse a committee to visit said ground and report their opinion of the suitableness of the place at the next meeting." On

Town Records. Book 5. Page 423 - 2nd.

Town Records. Book 1 - Page 17

November 6th 1826 it was "Voted to accept the report of their Committee and that the Clerk in behalf of the town return the Rev. Mr. Litchfield their thanks for his kind offer altho their Committee could not recomend the land as a suitable place for a burying ground."

Rev. Mr. Litchfield's will made less than a week before he died is an interesting and well considered document, bearing testimony to the accuracy of its opening lines: "In the Name of God Amen. I Paul Litchfield of Carlisle in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Clerk being weak in body, but of sound and perfect mind and memory blessed be Almighty God for the same, do make and publish this my last will and testament."

It has been stated that the Rev. Paul Litchfield was pastor of the Church of Christ only, and that the First Religious Society is mistaken in honoring him as its first pastor. A careful reading of the Town Records shows the error of this conclusion.

Mr. Litchfield was first hired to preach for and by the District of Carlisle the first religious society in Carlisle, before the Church of Christ existed. He was employed by the Committee which had been chosen at a District Meeting June 7th A.D. 1780 "to take Care and Supply the District with Preaching the year Ensuing." The Committee consisted of "Mr. Joseph Munroe, Capt. Israel Heald and Mr Isaac Wilkins," and on March 30, 1781 (a little over a month after the Church

Original receipt in Dept. Archives & Official Publications's Records
of Carlisle History in Gleason Library. Vol 7. Page 12.

of Christ was organized) Mr. Litchfield gave a receipt to Mr Isaac Wilkins of the District Committee as follows, in an amount which indicates that he had been preaching here probably for several months: "March the 3d 1781 Received of mr Isaac Wilkins three hundred & forty eight pounds, in part, for preaching at Carlisle.

Paul Litchfield"

It is true that the members of the Church of Christ, that group within the first religious Society, by their vote instigated the action to call Mr. Litchfield as a settled pastor, but it is equally true that he was finally called and became pastor of the entire parish (not just of the Church of Christ) because the larger group "concurred" and made this coming possible.

It was the Congregation of the District of Carlisle of which the members of the Church of Christ were a small minority, who first employed Mr. Litchfield in 1780, who by their vote in 1781 called him as settled pastor of Carlisle, who paid his salary, constituted this parish, and administered its affairs. Since it is a matter of record that the present First Religious Society is that same District and Town Church from which members have withdrawn, at times — some to form a second religious society, it will be seen that the First Religious Society of Carlisle is correct in honoring as its first pastor, the Rev. Paul Litchfield.

Although many townspeople are descended from parishioners of Mr. Litchfield, probably the late Mrs. Mary-

Library Collection — No. 178

" " No. 249

" " No. 28

A. Green had the most personal touch of recent years. Her mother was baptized by Mr. Litchfield, and Mrs. Green among her cherished possessions had the bonnet worn by her mother at that time.

In the Historical Collection at Gleason Public Library are parts of some of Mr. Litchfield's sermons in his own handwriting; a bound sermon which he preached before the Massachusetts Missionary Society at its annual meeting in Boston, May 28 1805; and a vest of brocaded silk worn by Parson Litchfield, and presented by his great grandson, the late William F. Litchfield of Maynard.

Here, too, loaned by the First Religious Society are the old Pewter Communion Set composed of two flagons, two plates and six cups; also two homespun linen cloths, all used during Mr. Litchfield's ministry here; and the books from Mr. Litchfield's library bequeathed to the Church of Christ in Carlisle, "requesting that my successor in the ministry may have the loan of them." These books, some published in London in the early 1700's, include the Bible in five volumes, a Dictionary of the Bible and various books of Ecclesiastical History and Exposition.

Two of Mr. Litchfield's claw foot chairs a light stand and bellows will be found at the Antiquarian House in Concord.

A book used by Rev. Paul Litchfield is now owned by Jay Fisk, present owner of the Litchfield Parsonage. Mr. Fisk values the book because it was

Mr. Litchfield's and was found there in this house where it has always been since Mr. Litchfield lived there; because it contains entries in the minister's handwriting; and because the information in the book of itself is most interesting.

The book is a thin, leather bound board-covered little volume, fragile and worn with the years. It is a yearbook or almanack published in 1794 and covering useful information about Federal, State and especially Boston matters - the Courts, Currency and Finance, the Indian Tribes in North America, the Port of Boston, Post Days, Civil Officers and the Census of Massachusetts in 1791. At this time the District of Maine was a part of Massachusetts. Under a list of "Religious Assemblies in Middlesex County" appears "Carlisle Paul Litchfield." One of the most interesting pages in the book is that originally blank, in the front of the book on which Mr. Litchfield entered the names, ages and cause of death of people in his parish who died in 1796.

The few existing material possessions which recall Mr. Litchfield's are treasured; his home has been restored by those who preserve its traditional hospitality; his Meetinghouse is cherished, and his memory honored in Carlisle.

Book 5. Pages 449-450

Book 6. Pages 5 and 6 9th

" " Page 13 - 6th

Book 6 - Orders on Pages 26 (2), 27 (2), 28 (3), 30 (1) - 32 ( )

Book 6. Page 19.

Plans For Preaching Following Mr. Litchfield's Death 1827

Shortly after Mr. Litchfield's death, a Town Meeting was called with the only article in the Warrant "To know if said inhabitants will take any method relative to having preaching in said Town in future or pass any votes respecting the same which they may think proper when assembled." It was "Voted to have preaching in said Town in future." John Nelson Esq^r Mr James Green and John Heald were chosen a committee of three "to hire preaching untill March next."

The next Spring, at the March Town Meeting, 1828 it was "Voted to have preaching in future" and John Heald was chosen "to hire preaching for one month." The following month at the April Town Meeting Cyrus Heald, Abel Taylor and Cyrus Green were chosen "to supply the Pulpit with a preacher."

That the Committee chosen to hire preaching during 1828 attended to its duties so that services were held is apparent from the numerous orders at the end of that year and the beginning of the next to pay for preaching, for boarding ministers, and for "Housekeeping." The names of the preachers hired were not always included in the orders but those mentioned were Rev. Mr. Reade, Rev. Mr. Randall, Rev. Hopilton Gragg, and Rev. Caleb Blake.

Disagreement Over Calling A Minister - 1828.

In June of 1828 occured the first recorded disagreement on religious matters. A Warrant to Mr Benjamin Barrett Jun^r Constable required him "to notify and warn all the inhabitants of said Carlisle qualified by law to vote in Town affairs (who have not signed

The parenthetical reference is undoubtedly to those
of the printed Old Resident Society in Chelmsford. 1824

Town Records. Book 6 - Page 20

History of Carlisle Mass. by Sidney A. Bull
Page 196

oft nor to not belong to any other religeous society) to meet at the Meeting House" on June 19th "To see if the Town will concur with the church in giving the Rev. Joseph W. Clary a call to settle with them in the gospel ministry; also to make further necessary arrangements in case of a favorable vote. Seventy-one people were present who voted, and there were twenty in favor of calling Mr. Clary, and fifty one opposed.

Withdrawal (Lt Concert pait Separation of Town Church 1828 or 829-

Tradition tells that feeling ran high among the inhabitants at this time and it is known that some disappointed members left the Town Church shortly after. It was presumably the above twenty people who voted unsuccessfully to call Mr. Clary, (of whom Mr. Bull speaks in his History of Carlisle published 1920) & who subsequently "took advantage of the then recent law and twenty in number, 'signed off,' as it was called to the Trinitarian Society in Concord, under the care of Rev. L. L. Southmayd, in order not to be holden to pay any part of the expense of settling or supporting a ministes who entertained religious views not consistent with their own."

In the Manual of the Trinitarian Congregational Church of Concord Mass. prepared by Rev. George A. Tewksbury, Pastor in 1895, under the Chapter entitled "History" on page 27 reference is found to the Carlisle people who went to Concord to worship at this time. "It appears from documentary evidence that in or near the year 1829 twenty five

persons in Carlisle connected themselves with the Society. They did this 'deeply sensible that the preaching of the True Gospel of Jesus Christ is vastly important' and feeling it to be their duty 'neither' to do nor to say anything for the support of that lax and liberal system which is adopted by many at this day.' It was understood that they would return whenever the privilege of the ministrations of the gospel in that town should be granted to them'. How long they held this communion is no "shown".

Through the courtesy of Rev. John E. Wallace, present minister of the Trinitarian Congregational Church in Concord, I have been allowed to study the Records of that Church for the years in question, hoping to learn more about those people who went to worship in Concord and perhaps their names. I found no reference to them at all in the Church Records and since they did not join that Society, their names are not found among its members. The "documentary evidence" of which Rev. Mr. Tenkes-bury wrote in 1896 must have been found somewhere outside the Records of this Church. But we do know that at least some who went to Concord to worship, returned to form the Union Calvinistic Society in Carlisle in November, 1831.

There is no record in the Town Books of the number of members of the Church of Christ and other parish members who withdrew from the first religious society, nor the number of those remaining, and as has been stated, the pages in the Record Book of the Church of Christ which undoubtedly contained that information about its own members,

History of Concord and surrounding Town by
Lemuel Shattuck
Page 331.

History of Middlesex County, Mass by
Samuel Adams Drake
Vol I Page 366.

cut from the book supposedly during the time it was in the possession of the dissenters who carried with them the church property.

The only figures relating to church membership of this period which I have been able to find are by two historians, one contemporary, and the other a writer of fifty years later. Mr. Lemuel Shattuck in his history of Concord and its surrounding towns (published in 1835) in speaking of Mr. Litchfield's successor, Rev. Mr. Hull and the Church of Christ after the seceding members had left says that there were then belonging to the Church "one male and ten female members" and that they worshiped "in the Meetinghouse erected by the Town." Mr. Shattuck further states that "Three male and eight female members had before seceded and with several others not members, erected a separate house where they worship."

Mr. Benjamin F. Heald of Carlisle in his history of the Town written for Drake's History of Middlesex County (published in 1880) says of the above situation, "the two male members of the Church who had voted for the call of Mr. Clary, and several citizens who sympathized with them, withdrew from their ecclesiastical relations with the Town and joined a church in Concord." He also says "In 1830 a second Society was formed by those who had seceded from the First, and had united at the time with the Second Society in Concord."

Thus in spite of incomplete records now available about this chapter of church and parish history, certain facts become apparent. First there withdrew

Town Records. Book 6 Pages 37 and 39 - 11th

voluntarily from the Town Church, the first religious society, two or three male members of the Church of Christ about eight female members, and a few other first religious society members, who were among those who later started the new society the Union Calvinistic Society now the Carlisle Congregational Church, which was formed in 1830. Another fact not always understood in recent years, is that, according to contemporary history, there were approximately as many Church of Christ members left in the Town Church as had withdrawn, together with the larger number of other first religious society members of whom we know.

There is recorded one attempt of the members of the Church of Christ who had withdrawn, to obtain the use of the meetinghouse. At the March Town Meeting in 1829 an article "to know if the Town will agree that the Church of Christ in this Town and others who may wish to worship with them may have the use of the Meetinghouse and Bell for the purpose of their worship at any time when it is not wanted for the use of the town" was "put over to the next March meeting." Before another year, the separation and rift between the former members who had withdrawn and those who had remained members of the first religious society seems to have become so complete that no further action was taken in the matter.

Lacking information which was accurate, without detailed search of the Town and other records, various mistak-

ew impressions have arisen and prevailed in some quarters through the years about these events in parish history. A search of available information and facts has therefore been enlightening in many respects.

Careful investigation reveals the fact that a minority of the First Religious Society, including some Church of Christ members were dissatisfied when the minister they wanted was not hired and accepted by the majority. They "seamed off" as was their privilege and left to worship in a Concord Church whose preacher was evidently acceptable to them. It is recorded that these people took into their keeping Church furnishings and Records which they were later to return because they could not legally retain them!

The outcome of this disagreement over calling a minister seems to have been simply the result of the majority ruling. The majority may or may not be right but it rules - a principle which is one of the foundations of our American way of life. There are two courses open to a minority aggrieved by a majority decision. They may tolerate an existing situation hoping for a future change or if they are not able to accept conditions as they are, they may withdraw.

Those who went from the First Religious Society in 1828 or 1829 left a condition which displeased them, and severed their connections therewith. We

Lowell Courier Citizen - Feb. 27, 1937 - Article entitled,
"Carlisle Congregational Church 106 years Old."

Book 6. Page 39 13th and 14th

are told that later the seceding people became the nucleus of the Union Calvinistic Society. Most if not all of the founders of the new Society once belonged to Mr. Litchfields First Parish Church, the First Religious Society, and a few of them to the Church of Christ. To say however, as has been done, that Mr. Litchfield was the first pastor of that new Society whose name was later changed to the Carlisle Congregational Church is of course a mistake. Mr. Litchfield died three years before that Society was formed.

Those remaining in the First Religious Society after 1829, and those who have followed them through the years have been faithful and loyal preservers of Society and Church. They are deserving of credit for maintaining and cherishing, often against great odds, the First Religious Society and its Meeting house.

Routine Parish Affairs Administered - 1829

At the March 1829 Town Meeting the previous Committee, Cyrus Heald Esqr, Green and Dea John Green (chosen "in the Room for Mr Taylor") were appointed to hire preaching, and the sum of three hundred Dollars was voted for the support of public worship.

At a Town Meeting in May Maj Jonas Parker, Cyrus Heald, and John Nelson Esqr

Town Records. Book 6 - Page 50 - 4th

" " " Pages 50 and 54

" " " Page 44 - 5th

" " " Page 42

" " " Page 44 - 7th

Drakes History of Middlesex County - Vol II - Page 479

Town Records. Book 6. Page 57.

were chosen to "lay out the money raised for Ministerial purposes." According to orders issued at the end of the year, the pulpit was supplied in 1829 by Rev. Mr Williams, Rev. Mr Steams, Rev. Mr. Muggy, and Rev. Mr. Tarr.

Further matters relating to parish affairs were considered at the April Town Meeting in 1829. Jebulun Blood and Enoch Carter were chosen Scythingmen and it was "Voted that the Bell be rung at twelve o'clock noon through the year." At this same April meeting the seventh article in the Warrant was "To know if said Town will choose a Committee to wait on the Rev. Ephraim Randall to see on what conditions he will preach in said Town for a number of months or settle with them in case he does not settle in Westford" Cyrus Heald, Maj Jonas Parker and John Nelson Esq^{r} were chosen to confer with Mr. Randall, but he had evidently decided to settle in Westford. There is no record of his coming here and it is elsewhere recorded that he went to Westford.

Consideration of Important Parish Matters - 1829 and 1830

Incorporation of Society

Ministerial Fund and Its Location

Recovery of Church Records and Furniture

As the situation between the Town Church and those who were leaving it developed, certain relative parish matters received consideration. At the close of the year 1829 a meeting of the inhabitants was called on December 28th to consider the following articles

"First To know if the Town will

Town Records. Book 6 - Page 52

"A Discourse Upon the History Of The Establishment
Of The First Parish In Carlisle Massachusetts"
By Rev. James J. Twiss - 1879.

petition the Legislator of said Commonwealth to be incorporated as the first Religious society in Carlisle or act on the article as they may think proper.
2nd To know what said will do with the ministerial fund and the Ministerial woodlot or act &c
3rd To know if the Town will assist the in Carlisle in recovering their furniture church records and also the Donation left by their late pastor the Rev. Paul Litchfield or act &c
4th To see if the Town will agree to hear and act upon any proposals or statement that may be made to them at the meeting by those who have signed off to the religious society in Concord Under the care of Rev. Daniel S. Southmayd or act &c"

The following action was taken on the above articles-

"1st art. on the first article voted to choose a committee to petition the legislator to be incorporated as the first Religious society in Carlisle and" chose John Nelson Esq. for that purpose. (at the State House in Boston) I have been unable to find that the petition was granted or even presented. It seems probable that the committee did not present the petition, for in Twiss's History of the Parish he says "On the 28th of December, 1829 the parish chose a committee to petition the General Court for a act of incorporation, but upon inquiry it was found to be unnecessary — that the parish or society would be a legal body whenever it should be disposed to sever its connection with the town

Town Records. Book 6. Page 74-6th

and manage all its affairs within itself; and so the subject was never carried to the Legislature." Inasmuch as five of Mr. Twiss's parishioners had been members of the parish at the time of the vote to incorporate it seems probable that he was correctly informed on this matter)

"2nd Voted That the money called the Simon Blood Donation money be forever appriated as a fund to be called the Blood Ministerial fund of the first Religious society in Carlisle.

Voted that said Bloods Ministerial fund be forever under the controll and for the sole use of the aforesaid first Religious Society in Carlisle

3rd Voted to chuse a committee of one to assist the church in recovering the Church furniture Records &c" (then in the hands of the previous members of the church and society who had "signed off") "and chose Dea John Green for said committee. Then voted to add two to said committee and choose Mr Benjamin Barrett & Cap. S. Blood

4th art. Voted to hear the proposals or statements that may be made to them at the meeting by those who have signed off to Rev. Mr. Goulds mayds society after hearing the proposals or statements said 4th article was dismissed.

Further action on these matters was taken the following May in 1830. Referring to special parish matters it was "Voted to petition the Legislature to incorporate the members of the first religious society in Carlisle as trustees of the Simon Blood

Town Records. Page #72 - Book 6 - 7th

" " Book 6 - Page 74 - 7th

Ministerial fund and Ministerial wood lot in Carlisle - Voted to choose three persons a Trustees of the Bill - - - - Chose John Nelson Esq. Cyrus Heald, Capt Thomas Green a Committee of three to report a bill." In the Parish Records there is an order dated April 28, 1832 to "Ai Wheat, Collector of the first religious society in Carlisle" to pay John Nelson for various services including "time and expences attending to the petition of said society before the Legislature."

Apparently those who had withdrawn from the society at length discovered that the law was with those who had not signed off, and that further attempt to retain possession of the articles in question would be futile. At the above May, 1830 Town Meeting there was also an article in the warrant "To hear the Report of the Committee Chosen last Dec to assist the Church in getting their Church Records and furniture and donation and also to pass any votes respecting Dea John Jacobs assertion that there was no Church Records." Under this article the Committee reported "that they have procured the Church Records and Church furniture but were not prepared to make any further Report then voted to choose a Committee of three to make further Report then voted to Reconsider said vote Then voted to have the Church records layed before the Town Clerk and Moderator to be read." The unfortunate condition in which the Book of Records is said to have been returned probably occasioned the above confusion of votes regarding the Church Records. Inasmuch as the Records of the Church of Christ, the books in question now in the possession of the First Religious Society has had all the pages after those recording the formation of the Church,

Town Records. Book 6. Page 63. 7th

" " " Page 70 - 3rd
4th

" " " Pages 75 (2), 83 (2), 85 (1),
84

the installation of Mr. Litchfield the confession of faith, and church meetings including May 9, 1782, cut out it seems probable and we know it is tradional that the mutilation accured prior to Deacon John Jacobs' "assertion that there was no Church Records"

Routine Parish Business 1830.

In March and Apul of 1830 the Town Records show action taken on the usual matters connected with maintaining public worship. In March it was "voted to raise three hundred Dollars for the support of preaching." In Apul Cyrus Heald, Ed John Green and Mr Thomas Page were chosen to "lay out the Ministerial Money" and it was voted to have meeting house bell rung at twelve o'clock at noon the year round. It was further "voted to have the Selectmen lay out the ringing of the bell to someone that belongs to the Society."

Among the orders for bills to be paid from the "Minister Money" for 1830 were those paying for the services of Mr Abbot, Mr. Winsbird Mr. Moore and Rev. Stephen Hull, who had supplied the pulpit that year. Twenty dollars and fifty four cents also was paid to Mr. Ai Wheat for boarding ministers from May to November, 1830.

Town Records - Book 6 - Page 80

" " " Page 81

Rev. Stephen Hull Called As Minister 1830-1835.

In the warrant for a meeting called to consider parish affairs held late that fall on November 22, 1830, the Constable Mr Benjamin Barrett Jr. was required by the Selectmen to notify and warn "all the Inhabitants of said Carlisle who belong to the Religious Society in said Town qualified by Law to vote in Parochial affairs to meet at the Meetinghouse in Carlisle" following is a record of that meeting -

"At a legal meeting of the Members of the first Religious Society in Carlisle held at the Meeting house in said Town on Monday the 22nd day of November

Choose Mr Thomas Heald Moderator

Article 1st Voted to take the yeas & nays on the question shall we or shall we not give the Rev. Stephen Hull an Invitation to settle with the first Church and Society in said Carlisle the yeas and nays was then called by the Moderator - & was then declared that they had unanimously agreed to give the Revd Stephen Hull an Invitation to settle with said Church and Society in the Ministry

Article 2nd Voted that so long as he discharge the duties of a Clergyman in said church and Society he receive three Hundred Seventy Dollars yearly for his Compensation to be paid in four quarterly payments -

Voted to Choose a Committee to consist of three to wait on the Revd Stephen Hull and present to him the proceedings of this Melting -

Choose Lea John Green, John Nelson Esq. and Mr. Leonard Green for said Committee

Voted that the above contract between the Revd Stephen Hull and said Church and Society may be dissolved by either party

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By Lemuel Shattuck
Page 331

thereto giving the other six months notice and paying up all arrearages. Article 3d Voted to take one hundred fifty Dollars of the Interest of the Ministerial fund in part of the Revd Stephen Hulls Salary the first year of ministry in Carlisle"

This meeting was adjourned for two weeks during which time the committee apparently concluded the necessary arrangements with Mr. Hull for at the adjourned meeting December 6th 1830, plans were made for his installation. Dea John Green, John Nelson Esq and Mr Leonard Green were chosen a Committee "to invite Ministers and Delegates to the Installation of the Revd Stephen Hull." A committee to make arrangements for the Installation was composed of "the parish Committee which consists of Cyrus Heald, John Green, and Mr Thomas Page, and one out of each School District in addition to the Parish Committee." Those chosen from the School districts were Mr Ai Wheat Capt Stephen Blood Maj: Jonas Parker Benjamin Barrett Jr. William Wetherbee and Mr Thomas Heald.

The Installation of the Rev. Stephen Hull took place on December 29, 1830. "On this occasion the Rev. Mr. Whitman made the introductory prayer; the Rev. Mr. Barry read selections from Scripture; the Rev. Peter Eaton D.D. of Boxford, preached the sermon; the Rev. Dr. Ripley made the consecrating prayer; the Rev. Mr. Allen gave the charge; the Rev. Ephraim Randall gave the right hand of fellowship; the Rev. Charles Briggs addressed the people; and the Rev. John Goldsbery of North Bridgewater made the concluding prayer. These gentlemen, and the Rev. Mr. White of Littleton, and the Rev. Dr. Packard of Chelmsford, with delegates from their respective churches, composed the

Town Records. Book 6 - Page 91 - 2d order

History of the First Parish By Rev. J. J. Torrey
Page 19

Town Records - Book 6 - Page 101 3d

Council." It would be interesting to know the parishes of all the above Clergymen. The historian, writing this so shortly after it took place evidently overlooked the fact that future generations would not know of these men perhaps near-by and no doubt then well-known. We do know that Dr. Ripley was from Concord, and Rev. Mr. Randall from Westford.

Early in 1831, William Green 2d received twenty-five Dollars "for Entertaining the Council at the Installation of the Rev. Stephen Hull."

"Rev. Mr. Hull had been pastor of Episcopal Churches in Raynham and Amesbury this State, previously to his settlement as pastor of this parish. He is represented as a gentleman of pleasing address and an acceptable preacher."

Separation Between Town And Parish Complete - 1832.

Now that the twenty-four people who joined the Baptist Society in Chelmsford, and the twenty or more who "signed off" to Concord and Waterstarted a new Society here, had legally withdrawn, it no longer was feasible to conduct the first Church as a Town Church. Those remaining in the Church parish - the members of the Church of Christ and the numerous other first religious Society members who supported the Church, owned pews and worshiped there - were now known in the Town Records and thereafter called themselves "the First Religious Society of Carlisle".

The last time there is a record of the Town voting money for the ministers salary and other parochial charges" was on November 14, 1831, when the sum of, three

Town Records. Book 6 - Page 80.

" " " Page 81.

hundred Dollars was appropriated for that purpose.

Early in 1832, the records of the first Religious Society appear separate from the Town Records and subsequently there is every indication of an almost complete separation of Town and Parish finances and affairs. The previous Parish meeting, held in November 1831, when arrangements were made to engage Rev. Wm. Hull as pastor had been called in response to a warrant issued to a Constable by the Selectmen, according to the form of an ordinary Town Meeting Warrant - except that it was addressed to "those belonging" to the Religious Society in said Town qualified by Law to vote in Parochial affairs." The account of that meeting is found in the Town Records. The record of the next and all meetings of the first Parish thereafter will be found in the Records of the First Religious Society.

Beginning with March 1832 Town Meetings were called at "the first Religious Society's Meeting-house" or "the first parish Meetinghouse" for many years instead of at "the Meetinghouse in Carlisle" as had formerly been the case.

Tarsh Records

- All records referred to hereafter are Tarsh Records of the Tarsh Religious Society unless otherwise stated -

First Meeting Of First Religious Society Which Was Not Controlled And Recorded By The Town - Feb 1832 -

Parish Records kept separately from Town Records begin with the following entry in February 1832 -

"To John Nelson Esqr one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Middlesex.

Sir The assessors of Carlisle having refused to call a meeting of the members of the first Parish in Carlisle the undersigned, members of the said Parish request you to issue a Warrant for calling a meeting of the qualified voters of the aforesaid Parish, to meet at the Societies meeting house on Monday the fifth day of March next at ten o'clock A. M. to act on the following articles viz -

1st To choose a Moderator
2d To choose necessary Parish officers.
3d To see what method the society will take to pay the Rev. Stephen Hull his salary.
4th To see what method the society will take to warn their future meetings.

Cyrus Green
William Green 2d
B. F. Heald
Simon T. Fletcher
Silas Green
James W. Wilkins
Leonard Green
Asa Green
Tilly Green
Thomas Green
Stephen Taylor "

Carlisle Feb 20th 1832

In accordance with the above application Mr. Nelson issued a Warrant to Ai Wheat Constable "to call a meeting of all the members of said Parish qualified by law to vote in parish meeting to meet at the

Meeting house of the first parish in Carlisle" at the time and for the purposes stated, the Warrant being returnable to L. Nelson, Justice of the Peace. Following is a copy of the action at that meeting -

"At a legal meeting of the members of the first parish in Carlisle holden at the meeting house of the first parish on Monday March 5 A.D. 1833 at ten O'clock A. M. pursuant to a Warrant issued by John Nelson Esq^r.

Benj: F. Heald was unanimously Chosen Moderator

On Article 1- Voted to choose Parish officers necessary to manage to offices of said Parish -

John Nelson was chosen Parish Clerk
John Nelson, Cyrus Heald, and Cyrus Green were Chosen parish assessors -
James Green was chosen Parish Treasurer

Voted that the Assessors appoint a Collector if necessary -

On 2 Article Voted that Three hundred Dollars be appropriated out of the Ministerial fund to pay the Rev. Stephen Hull's salary for the ensuing year

On 3 Article Voted that the Annual meeting of said Parish be holden on the first Monday of March in each year.

On 4 Article - Voted that the Assessors be authorized to call special meetings of said Parish at any time when necessary.

John Nelson, Parish Clerk"

Members Of First Religious Society 1832-1833

The First Religious Society at the time of the separation of Town and Parish in 1832, consisted of the members of the Parish who had not "signed off" to some other religious society, and included those members of the Church of Christ who had not "signed off." There is no further official record of this latter group as a separate body, and it seems appalent that as time went on they discontinued organization distinct from the First Religious Society, and merged entirely with that Society.

Following is a list of members of the First Religious Society in 1833 the first year after the separation of Town and Parish, who with their families continued to worship in the old Carlisle Meetinghouse and carry on the affairs of the First Parish. The names are taken from the the Parish Valuation and Assessment List, made for the purpose of raising money for Ministerial expenses. Of those on this list eighteen are assessed for a poll tax only, and eight, as will be seen had their taxes abated, but evidently belonged to the Parish.

Benj^{a} Adams
Saml Adams
Benj^{a} Baldwin
John Blanchard
Stephen Blood
Rebamah Blood
Joel Boynton
Albert Boynton
Wm Buttrick
Thomas Bell
Hezekiah Blaisdell - abated
Enoch Carter
S. L. Dutton
Wm Durant
S. & Wm Farrar
L. G. Forbush
Leonard Green
Dea John Green
Reuben Green
Isaiah Green
Asa Green
Tilly Green
James Green
Thomas Green
Oliver Green
Lurene Green
Cyrus Green
Ai Green
William Green
Wm Green 2d
Jefferson Green
Mary Ann Green
Amos Green
Robert Gilquist
Esther Hartwell
Stephen Hull - abated

Asa Hartwell
Saml Holt
Hannah Heald
Thomas Heald
John Heald - abad.
Cyrus Heald
Thomas Heald Jr.
Joel Hodgman
Thomas Hodgman
T. G. Hodgman
Geo. & Wm Hodgman
Josiah Hodgman
Matt Hutchinson
Stephen Hodgman
John Hodgman
A. L. Hutchinson
Marshall Heald
Jon. Heald Esq.
Ephraim Heald
B. F. Heald
Henery Hoar
Warren Heald
Calvin Heald
J. V. Heald
David Litchfield
Thos Litchfield
Saml Lovejoy
Rufus Lovejoy - abated
Betsy Lakin
Asa Mansfield
Rufus Mansfield
Varnum Munroe
John Nelson
Ezekiel Nickeles
E. D. Nickeles.
Varnum Nickeles
A. N. Nutting
Asa Nutting
Eli Procter
Thomas Page

Jonas Parker
Asa Parlin
S. W. & N. Parlin
Franklin Procter
Saml Procter - abated
Tradens Procter - abated
Ezekiel Procter
John Parker
Otis Pennyman
Jane Robbins
S. & S. P. Stephens
Sarah Procter
John D. Robbins
Zebulon Spaulding
Oliver Spaulding
Reuben Stone
Abraham Taylor
N. & Stephen Taylor
Matt Taylor
Luther Twitchell
Ai Wheat
Betsy Wheat
Abigail Wheeler
Wm Wilkins
J. W. Wilkins
Geo. Wilkins - abated
Gadock Wilkins
Simon Wheeler
Hannah Farmenter - abated
Wm D. Towne
John Nickeles
John B. Wilkins

First Stove Purchased For Meetinghouse - 1832

An important matter received consideration at the next Parish meeting on December 18, 1832. Capt. Thomas Green, John Nelson, and James W. Wilkins were chosen "to purchase a stove and erect it into the Meeting house." As far as can be learned this is the first time any arrangements were made for furnishing heat in the Meetinghouse. Previous to this the only relief from the bitter cold during winter services was the presumeably slight degree of comfort afforded by individual foot stoves. Some of the Carlisle families still preserve these foot stoves used by their ancestors in the old Meetinghouse.

The sum of 52 1/4 dollars was voted on March 4, 1833 to be taken from the "Ministerial fund" "to pay for the Stove and funnel and putting up the same."

Repairs to Meetinghouse 1833-1835

In April 1833 certain necessary repairs were provided for by the parish. The parish assessors were "empowered to contract with a suitable person to repair the bell yoke" and to make such repairs on the Bell deck as they may think necessary. In the Parish expenditures of 1835 to 1836, are two items which presumeably refer to the repairs on the bell yoke and Bell deck voted in 1833. We find "Cash paid Wm Durant for repairing M. H. - 3.96" and "Cash paid N Hoar for painting Bell yoke 75 cents"

In a list of Parish expenditures from March 20, 1833 to March 31, 1834, we find that other work, too, was done at the Meetinghouse. Sam'l Adams was paid $16.00 by the Society for

Town Records Book 6 - Pages 153 and 156

" " " Page 132 - 4th

repairing the Bell (this word is invariably capitalized); Wm Durant 38 cents for iron bolts; Moses Hayward 92 cents for glass; and Chamberlain Wilkins 50 cents for setting glass. In this list, also, is included an item of $5.70 for "sundry demands against the Society prior to 1833."

On November 9, 1835, we find one of the two instances on record where the Town voted for repairs on the Meetinghouse after the Separation of Town and Parish. On the above date, in response to an article "To see if the Town will agree to make any repairs about the Meetinghouse Bell Deck," it was "Voted to choose a Committee of three to make such repairs on the Meetinghouse Bell Deck as are needed. Voted that the Selectmen compose this Committee."

Ministers On School Committee 1830 –

The custom inaugurated during Mr. Litchfields ministry of having the pastor inspect the Schools was continued after his death. Rev. Stephen Hull was chosen a member of the committee the first years of his pastorate here and in 1833 both he and Rev. Abel Fallen, of the newly formed Union Calvinistic Society, were with John Nelson Esq. chosen "the Towns School Committee". The wisdom of the voters' choice is apparent when it is realized that John Nelson was the local physician, so that the entire committee was composed of professional people. This it will be remembered was at a time when few others had the advantages of higher education.

Turner's History of the Fort Lands - Page 1

End Of Rev. Mr. Hulls Pastorate - 1835

At a Parish Meeting November 23, 1834 it was voted "that the ministerial connection existing between the first Parish in Carlisle & Rev. S. Hull be dissolved in six months from this day" The reason for the Parish action is not given in the Records but possibly a suggestion of the difficulty may be found in the following observation "His want of tact and judgement concerning business affairs -- sometimes involved him in embarrassment and caused his friends to feel much anxiety on his behalf."

John Nelson, Cyrus Heald, and James Green were chosen a committee to inform Mr. Hull of the vote and to make a final settlement with him "when the said dissolution shall take place". Later a committee was chosen to raise money by subscription to defray the expence incurred by Mr Hull "in removing his family into this place," and three other men were designated "to furnish letters of recommendation to Rev. S. Hull."

Warrants For Parish Meetings To Be Posted - 1835

From 1832 to 1835, Parish Meetings had been called by a Warrant issued by the Parish Assessors to one of the Constables requiring him "In the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to warn all the members of the First Religious Society in Carlisle legally qualified to vote in Parish affairs" and the Warrant was returnable to one of the Assessors on or before the time of the meeting. Apparently as in the case of Early District Meetings the notification had to be personal and verbal.

On April 16, 1835, it was voted "that

all meetings of the Parish hereafter holden shall be notified by written notifications from the Clerk, posted at two public places in Carlisle seven days at least prior to the time of holding said meetings, stating the time place and purposes for which said meetings are holden."

Methods of Meeting Parochial Charges. 1832 —

After 1832 money for parish expenses was raised sometimes by subscription, or was taken from the "Ministerial fund," or from the sale of wood on the "Ministerial Lot and the members were also taxed, as formerly.

It was first the custom to authorize the parish assessors to hire a collector whose duty it was to collect the assessments. Later this officer was elected by the Society, and even later the offices of Collector and Treasurer were combined. The money collected was disbursed for parish expenses on order from the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Records contain the lists of valuation and assessments of its members prepared for the years 1833 and 1834, immediately after the separation between parish and town finances, and for several years thereafter. The "Parish Valuation for the year 1835" gives, as in 1833 and 1834, all the names, the value of real estate and of personal property, and number of polls after each name, followed by the assessment on each classification and the total tax levied on the individual. In 1835 the taxes of sixteen people were abated, and nine were on "Helis" of deceased members, "Guardians of others, and "Gardians of

Heirs." Aside from these there were eighty-one members of the Parish who were assessed on real estate, personal property, polls, or all three making a total of one hundred six on the list. Twelve of the members were also taxed for "out lands" ranging in value from £1. Nelson's #5 C. to that belonging to the "Heirs of Zebulon Spaulding" at #5-00. It seems probable that "out lands" referred to property outside of Carlisle, since in another such list a similar group is headed "Estate Out of the Parish."

Following is the assessor's summary for 1835: "104 975 Dollars. Total amount of Estate Real and Personal owned by members of the first Religious Society in Carlisle per Valuation" of 1835.

I. F. Heald
Jonas Parker } Parish
J. M. Wilkins } Assessors

312. 24. Total amount of taxes assessed for the year — 1835

I. F. Heald
Jonas Parker } Parish
J. M. Wilkins } Assessors"

The assessment for the year 1840 gives a "Description of the Personal Estates." This list includes such items as cattle, oxen, horses, swine, stock in trade, and barrels of cider.

In 1848, both Real Estate and Personal Estate were described in detail

funds were now obtained by subscription as well as by taxation. In May 1839, Cyrus Heald, Wm. Green, 2nd, Capt. Thos. Heald, Calvin Heald, and Zebulon Spaulding, were elected a Committee of the parish and from each school district "to obtain subscriptions for the purpose of supporting liberal preaching." It became the custom to choose

such a Committee as this and they were sometimes authorized to "lay out" the money so procured and to arrange for the care of the Meetinghouse. Sometimes instead, arrangements for the care of the Meetinghouse and ringing the Bell were delegated to the Parish Assessors, as were other duties which later became the responsibility of the Standing Committee, or Parish Committee.

A third Committee still chosen annually, as in earlier days was the one "to settle with the Parish Clerk and Treasurer" (or Collector). The report of this Committee contained an account of receipts and expenditures, a financial accounting to the parish.

Ministers Who Supplied Pulpit - 1835.

The ministers who supplied the pulpit during the months following Rev. Mr. Hull's departure in the Spring of 1835, were Rev. Edmund Capron, Rev. Mr. Williams and Rev. George W. Stacy.

Judging by the expenses of these ministers which were paid while they were in town, they must have remained here during the week. Dr. John Nelson was paid "19.62 for "boarding Ministers &c &c" and James Green was paid $30.00 for "boarding Rev. Messrs Capron and Stacy 15 wks at $2. per wk." Two dollars seems to us like a small amount for a weeks room and board, but it was about the usual amount received for boarding men school teachers at that time.

Rev. George Whittemore Stacy. Nov. 1835 - Apr. 1839

The financial Statement indicates that Rev. Mr. Stacy had been continuously employed and paid from Nov 1, 1835 to at least one month before the March 1836 meeting at which plans were made to employ him regularly. and presumably he was then preaching in the Meetinghouse. We know that James Green received pay for boarding Mr. Stacy for some weeks during that winter. It seems apparent however that the princely sum of $2. per week did not include a fire in his room. According to the financial Statement of the parish the "Cost of wood & Cel. to Rev. G. W. Stacy" was $26.89. The ministers of the parish was still furnished with firewood.

At the first of the two March Parish Meetings in 1836, Capt. T. Green, Capt. E. Nickels, Maj. Jonas Parker, Dea John Green, and Jebulun Spaulding were chosen a Committee "to consult with Rev. G. W. Stacy and ascertain on what Terms he will supply the Desk for one year." At the adjourned meeting, Capt Thos. Green reported for the Committee that "Sd Stacy would engage to supply the Desk one year for three hundred dollars and house rent & fire wood for that time." (There is in the Parish Book an order to Mr. James Green, Parish Treasurer, to "pay William Green 2d $70 seventy dollars being the amount due to him for furnishing Rev. Geo. W. Stacy with a house and fuel one year ending May 1-1837").

The report of the Committee who consulted with Mr. Stacy was accepted, and it was voted "that Rev. G. W. Stacy be invited to settle as pastor of the first Religious Society in Carlisle," that his ordination take place on the first Wednesday in May if

agreeable to him, and that Dea John Green Cyrus Heald and Capt. Thomas Green "be a Committee of invitation for the occasion." Jonas Parkes B. F. Heald Wm Wilkins, Stephen Blood, Wm Green 2d, Zebulun Spaulding and Stephen Taylor were appointed a "Committee of arrangements".

Ordination of Rev. George W. Stacy May 4 1836.

The following account of Mr. Stacy's ordination is copied from a program printed at that time and presented to the Carlisle Historical Society by Mr. Herbert A. Lee, in whose family it had been preserved:

ORDER OF EXERCISES
AT THE
Ordination of Mr. George W. Stacy, of Boston,
Over the Congregational Church and Society, Carlisle, Mass.
May 4, 1836

1. ANTHEM.
2. INTRODUCTORY PRAYER, by Mr. DAMON, of West Cambridge
3. SELECTIONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES, by Mr. ANDREWS, of Chelmsford.
4. HYMN.

1. How beauteous are their feet,
Who stand on Zion's hill!
Who bring salvation on their tongues,
And words of peace reveal.

2. How charming is their voice!
How sweet the tidings are!
Zion behold thy Saviour king,
He reigns and triumphs here!

3. How happy are our ears,
That hear this joyful sound,
Which kings and prophets waited for,
And sought, but never found!

4. How blessed are our eyes,
That see this heavenly light.
Prophets and kings desired it long,
But died without the sight!

5. The watchmen join their voice,
And tuneful notes employ;
Jerusalem breaks forth in songs,
And deserts beam with joy.

6. The Lord makes bare his arm
Through all the earth abroad;
Let every nation now behold
Their Saviour and ther God.

5. SERMON, by Mr. BALLOU, of Mendon.
6. ANTHEM.
7. ORDAINING PRAYER, by Mr. MAYNARD, of Amherst, N. H.
8. CHARGE, by Mr. DEAN, of Boston.
9. RIGHT-HAND OF FELLOWSHIP, by Mr. MORSE, of Marlboro,
10. ORIGINAL HYMN.

1. O God of truth, of might and love,
Meet with thy servants here below;
Send down thy spirit from above, —
And may each feel its gentle glow.

2. Here may the Word of life Divine,
Be heard, and reach the anxious heart —
Here Lord, give culture to that vine,
Which from the soil of Truth must start.

3. Oh guide us all - but do Thou hear
Our prayer for him, who now, to-day,
Resolves to make thy cause more dear,
And own his Master's gentle sway.

4. Lord be his guide in scenes of time,
Nor may he tire while on the way;
But with his message all Divine,
Have strength sufficient for his day.

5. And when his labors here shall end,
And dust receive her promised due, —
Oh Thou who art the sinner's friend,
In worlds of light, his youth renew.

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Rev. James J. Tufts
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11. ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE, by Dr. RIPLEY, of Concord.
12. CONCLUDING PRAYER, by Mr. WHITE, of Littleton.
13. ANTHEM.
14. BENEDICTION.

The amount of the expenses connected with the ordination are found in a Parish order to pay Capt Thomas Green "28.98 " being the amount due to him for expences of Rev. Geo. W. Stacy's Ordination!" It would be of interest to know the name of the author of the "Original Hymn" sung at the Ordination Services, but there seems to be no record of that.

From Lakes History of Middlesex County we learn that "Mr. Stacy was born in Boston March 12, 1809. He was left in early life to his own resources and was self educated, almost without the advantages of schools. He was an earnest and effective preacher, and in every relation of life a good man." "

In 1879 Rev. Mr. Twiss said of Mr. Stacy "Rev. George Whittemore Stacy was, forty years ago, and still is 'an earnest preacher, a good worker, and a most zealous reformer.' This is the voluntary testimony of one of the elder members of the parish who adds: 'He is one of the best men that ever lived,' to all which, we who know him will sincerely subscribe." At the time the above was written, Mr. Stacy lived in Milford, Mass.

Stand on Temperance Taken By Mr. Stacy -

At a Parish Meeting held June 7, 1837 appeared an article "To hear and act on any communication which may be made at said Meeting by Rev. G. W. Stacy." At the Meeting "Rev. Geo. W. Stacy communicated to the meeting some reasons which induced him to apprehend that

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extensive dissatisfaction existed in the Parish with him (the said Stacy) in regard to the attitude which a sense of his duty to God & his fellowmen had constrained him to assume, in regard to the 'Temperance Reformation' and requested (if such was the fact) an immediate dismission from his Pastoral labors. Whereupon the Society voted unanimously that no such dissatisfaction did exist and that the request of Mr Stacy be rejected." It has been said of Mr. Stacy that he "took an advanced position in the temperance and abolition reforms which sometimes alienated him from the sympathy of some of his people, but he never forfeited their respect" which is evidenced by the above vote of confidence.

It seems possible that the Rev. Mr Stacy's zeal for the Temperance Reformation may have been responsible in part for the action taken at the March Town Meeting in 1837 on an article "To see if the town will instruct the Selectmen on approbating Taverners and Retailers in said town the ensuing year or adopt any other measure on the subject." It was voted "to have the selectmen approbate no Taverners nor Retailers in Town the ensuing year. Also voted to have the Selectmen appear before the County Commissioners to oppose any person who may appear there for the purpose of obtaining a license".

It will be realized that the accomplishment of the above vote at this period in the town's history was an achievement when we remember that not only had it previously been expected that the minister as well as his parishioners would drink of the Taverners refreshments, but furnishing drink on any public occasion had always been

Town Records - Book 6 - Page 222 - Art 32

an anticipated and legitimate Town Expense? Therefore the pastor must have been much gratified at the result of his efforts for the temperance cause and no doubt deeply concerned when at a Town Meeting a month later, in April it was "voted to reconsider the vote which was passed last March meeting whereby the Selectmen were requested to approbate no Taverners nor Retailers."

Ringing of the Meetinghouse Bell. 1831-1837

From the year 1831 until 1837 there is nothing in the Town Records in regard to the ringing of the Bell at any time, and according to the Parish Records, that service was contracted for and paid for during those years by the First Religious Society. Each year they voted to employ some person to take care of the Meetinghouse and ring the Bell. It is not specified whether during this period, the bell was rung week days as well as Sundays, or not but it seems probable that it was, since the sums paid ranged from $7.00 to $12.00, which were about the amounts previously paid for both.

In 1833 the Parish Assessors were authorized in March "to employ a person to ring the Bell and take care of the Meetinghouse" and in April "to let out the ringing of the Bell the ensuing year by auction". In 1834, the Parish Assessors contracted with Luther Twitchell "to ring the bell and take charge of the Meetinghouse belonging to the First Religious Society in Carlisle" for which he received the sum of ten dollars. Again in 1835, the Parish Assessors were authorized "to contract with some suitable person" to ring the Bell and

Town Records. Book 6. Page 218 - 5th

" " " Page 223 - 5th

" " " Page 251 - Orders 45

take charge of the "Meetinghouse" and they contracted with John Taylor to perform those duties for the sum of #7. On March 7, 1836 Mr. Taylor received this sum "for his services as sexton to s^d Parish." In 1837 Ai Wheat received #12. for ringing the bell and taking care of the Meetinghouse during 1836.

Beginning in 1837 the Town again assumed responsibility for having the Bell rung on week days. On April 3, 1837 on an article "To see if the Town will agree to pay for ringing the bell the ensuing year," it was voted "to have the Selectmen employ a person to ring the bell on every week day during the year. To be rung at 12 noon the first six months" (I think this meant beginning with the April meeting) "the last six months at 9 in the A.M." On April 3d, 1838, John Park Jr. was paid by the Town eleven dollars, "it being for ringing the bell one year ending April 2d 1838." On March 5th of the same year, 1838, John Park Jr. received #2.88 from the first Religious Society "for ringing the Bell and taking care of the Meetinghouse of said Soc for one year ending this day." Since he received pay from the Town and from the first Religious Society for ringing the Bell for the same period of time, and since the Town had voted to pay for having the Bell rung on week days, it is evident that the amount from the first Religious Society was for ringing the Bell on Sundays only, and for the care of the Meetinghouse. Also since the amount paid this year by the Society was so much less than previous years, undoubtedly they had been paying for having the Bell rung on week-days as well as Sundays during the

Town Records. Book 6. Pages 224 and 226-3d.

peried from 1831 to 1837 when the Town took no action at all in the matter.

Moon House Removed - 1837.

In 1837, we find the Town planning for the removal of the "Moon House originally intended when it was erected in 1785 for use between services on the Sabbath. No record is found of the exact date when the second Sunday service was discontinued, but probably many years before this date. It will be remembered that in 1810 when slight change was made in the hour of worship, there was no reference to an intermission or a second service as was the case when the time of worship was established in 1784. It therefore seems probable that the second service was discontinued before 1810, and that use of the "Moon House for its original purpose at least, had been abandoned for many years.

The only references to the Moon House which I have found between the time of its erection in 1788 and the vote to remove it in 1837 were in 1824 when permission was given for the erection of horse stables and again in 1835. After the record of the death of one Jinni Mutting on February 3 1835, aged 41, was the comment "died in moon house." How the deceased happened to be stricken there was not explained.

At a Town Meeting on May 8, 1837 on an article "To see if the Town will take any measures towards removing the moon house so called" James N. Willems Varnum Heald and Nathaniel Taylor were Chosen a Committee of three "to remove the moon house."

Town Records. Book 6. Pages 232 and 236 - Art 2.

Town Records Book 6. Pages 242 and 245 - 13th

This Committee seems not to have been successful in causing the noon house to be completely removed, although it may have been demolished. In November of that same year, discussion at a Town Meeting came on an article "To see if the Town will take any measures to cause the remains of the noon house and other incumbrances on the Common to be removed there from." It was voted that the Selectmen be chosen a "Committee of three - - - to give fourteen days notice to all persons who may have any incumbrances on the Common to remove the same therefrom; and if such persons after sd notice shall neglect to remove the same then this Committee shall proceed to take such measures as they may deem expedient to remove the same."

There is no further reference to the noon house or its remains so that we may safely assume that all "incumbrances" on the Common were removed, and the noon house, its usefulness over, became a thing of the past.

Rev. Mr. Stacy on Committee To Procure Physician - 1838

In 1838, Rev. Mr. Stacy was chosen a member of an interesting town committee. At the March meeting in 1838, it was "voted and chose Rev. Mr. Stacy, James Green, and Maj. Jonas Parker a Committee to procure a physician for said town." It is known that Dr. John Nelson left town about this time, and the need for a resident physician was of immediate concern to the inhabitants. The year previous an article

Town Records. Book 6. Pages 218 and 222 - 7th

Town Records. Book 6. Page 311.

Town Records. Book 6. Page 287. The third article.

"To see if the Town will cause a general inoculation of the ——" (the word is indistinct) "pox in said Town" was dismissed, but indicates that the question of public health was an important consideration.

It seems entirely probable that the above-named Committee was instrumental in Dr. Austin Marsh's settling in Carlisle since he came that year to this town where he was a practising physician for approximately sixty years. The first time Dr. Marsh's name is mentioned in the Town Records is in 1840. Benj. P. Hutchens was chosen a member of the School Committee "in the room of Dr. Marsh, who declined serving."

Isaiah Green Trustee of Parish Fund - 1839.

At its meeting March 4, 1839 the First Religious Society chose Isaiah Green Trustee to take charge of the Parish Fund and also chose Maj. B. F. Heald, Maj Jonas Parker, and Sebulun Spaulding Jr. a Committee to settle with and receive the Simon Blood Jr. Donation from the Town, and pay the same over to the Parish Trustee.

In the Town Records of April 1, 1839 appears the following: "The Committee chosen by the Town to settle with the Trustees of the Simon Blood donation, and the funds belonging to the Town from those of the first Parish, have attended to the duties assigned."

There is recorded in the Parish Record Book a paper signed by Isaiah Green receipting to the First Parish "for notes and money to be by me held in trust for the use of said Parish and be disposed of as they shall direct"

- Todd Private Record -

Town Record. Book 6. Page 205 -

Resignation of Rev. Mr. Stacy - April 1839.

The pastorate of the Rev. G. W. Stacy in Carlisle ended in 1839 at his own request. At a Parish meeting April 18, 1839 the following Communication was received and read -

"Carlisle April 18th 1839

Brethren: -

Having publicly taken my leave of you, I have this request to make, viz - That you give me such a recommendation as you conscientiously can.

Wishing you success and union, and praying that under the ministry of a good and faithful Pastor you may hereafter be blessed with all spiritual blessings, permit me to subscribe myself,

Yours respectfully,

G. W. Stacy"

Acting on the above letter the following resolve was passed, and it was voted that a copy be signed by the Secretary and transmitted to Mr. Stacy -

"Resolved, That the Members of the First Religious Society in Carlisle have undiminished confidence in the Piety, Integrity, and Christian Character of the Rev. George W. Stacy their late Pastor and cheerfully recommend him to those who may hereafter require his services as an able and faithful Minister of the Gospel."

During Rev. Mr. Stacy's pastorate here his home was saddened by the death of two children. On Sept. 15, 1836 his daughter Sarah, aged 1 year and 2 months died, and on March 8, 1839 a son Edward Quincy, who was born here died. The exact age of the son is not certain but he was probably about a year old.

In 1837 Rev. George W. Stacy was elected Representative to the General Court from this Town.

Pulpit Supplied Following Rev. Mr. Stacy's Departure

During the years following Mr. Stacy's departure, a Committee was chosen annually to supply the pulpit with preaching. The names of those who supplied the pulpit at the First Parish Meetinghouse during these years are seldom found, although the Parish Records show that Services were regularly held. Norwood Damon supplied the pulpit for a time, and in a list of "Expenditures of the First Parish in Carlisle from March 1st 1842 to March 6th 1843" are the names of Rev. Mr Turner Sam. Maynard, Mr Harding and Chas. Gallacas. Rev. L. Maynard, Rev. Abel Fletcher, and Rev. Mr. Frost also preached here during this interval between settled pastors.

Votes Regulating Use of Meetinghouse 1842-1843

At a Meeting of the First Religious Society on March 5th 1842 it was "Voted that the Meetinghouse be opened for no other purpose than Religious worship and on no occasion for anti Slavery discussion except by a Vote of the Society."

The next year at the annual Parish meeting in 1843, the subject of when the Meeting House should be opened, again came up for consideration. On an article "To determine when and what occasion the Meeting house shall be opened," it was "Voted that the Meeting house should be opened to ministers of all denominations in regular standing by the application of three members belonging to the Society making a request to the Parish Clerk." It was further voted "that the Meeting house should be opened to regular lectures Moral and religious"

Town Records. Book 6 - Pages 335 and 337 - Art. 6

Town Records, Book 7. Pages 7 and 8 - Art 7.

Repairs on Meetinghouse Made by Town - 1841

The question of repairs to the Meetinghouse came before the Town once more in 1841, when it was acted upon favorably.

On March 5, 1841 the first Religious Society "Voted that the Parish officers procure the insertion of an Article in the Town Warrant for April Meeting next to see if the Town will repair the Vestry"

At the Town Meeting on April 5, 1841, on an Article "To see if the Town will repair the Vestry" (perhaps the entrance?) "of the first parish Meeting house," Lulon Spaulding Jr. Capt Thomas Green and Benj^{a} F. Hutchins were appointed a Committee "to proceed without delay to repair said vestry" Inasmuch as the Town was still holding its meetings in the old Meetinghouse, it evidently felt some slight obligation toward its maintenance.

Decision of Town That it Had No Rights In First Parish Meetinghouse

Further repairs which became necessary on the Meetinghouse brought about an investigation by the Town as to its rights and obligations there.

At a Town Meeting on April 7, 1845, appeared an article "To see if the Town will have any repairs made on the Town house" It was "Voted that a Committee of seven be Chosen to assertain the rights of the town to the first Parish Meetinghouse and as to their obligations to keep the same in repair - and if upon investigation they shall find the Town is liable to repair any part of the same, they be authorized to contract with some person to do - and

Town Records. Book 7 Page 13.

" " " Page 19.

" " " Pages 19 and 20 - Art 3

" " " Page 23
" Art 8.

" " " Page 26
Art 8

that they make a report of their doings and the information received at the next town Meeting Voted & choose for the above mentioned committee B. F. Heald, Benj Barrett, P. Hutchins, Calvin Heald, George F. Durein, Joel Boynton, and John Jacobs."

The above meeting and one in November of that year, 1845 were called as usual "at the first parish Meetinghouse," but the next one on Dec. 8, 1845 was held "at Mrs. Wheats Hall." At this meeting an article "To hear and act upon the report of the committee chosen at a former meeting to determine the right of the town in the first parish Meeting house" was "put over" to the next March meeting.

That meeting, on March 2, 1846 was also called "at Mrs. Wheats Hall." The eighth article in the warrant was the above one postponed from the previous December meeting. "The Committee chosen to acertain the right of the Town to the first Parish Meeting House reported as follows to wit at a town Meeting holden on the Seventh day of April last, the undersigned were appointed a Committee to accertain what right if any, the town has in the first parish Meeting house and its obligation to a portion of the expence of keeping the same in repair. Pursuant to the foregoing instruction the Committee, have attended the duty assigned, and submit the following Report — Immediately subsequent to their appointment the Committee assembled and investigated all the facts & records relating to building of the said Meetinghouse that were within reach from the information thus derived the Committe were strongly of opinion that the town was not the legal owner

Town Records. Book 7. Page 28- 14th

" " " Page 31 2nd

of any part of said house. But as there was circumstances that caused some doubt in regard to the Correctness of their opinion it was resolved that legal advice should be taken. A sub Committee were appointed to lay all the facts & records in the matter before a learned & eminent lawyer of this County, after a careful investigation of the subject he gave an opinion in writing fully sustaining the Committee in their conclusion —
Your Committee therefore agree to report that the Town have no legal right in or to any part of said Meeting House and consequently are not under obligation to pay any part of the expence of repairing the same.

B. F. Heald
John Jacobs
George F. Lauren
Joel Boynton
Benj: Barrett
Calvin Heald
} Committee

Voted and accepted the above report"
Having decided that they had no right to the use of the Meetinghouse, the Townspeople proceeded at the same Meeting, to provide for a future place of meeting for official town business. It was "Voted to choose a Committee of seven to provide a place to hold future town meetings and to have them report at the next town meeting — and chose Benj: Barrett Esq, Thomas Green, Levi S. Hutchinson, John Jacobs, Jonas Parker, Stephen Taylor & Cyrus Heald for said Committee."
This Committee reported on April 6, 1846 "that future town meetings to be held at Mrs Wheatly's Hall which report was excepted". From this time until Nov. 11, 1850

all Town meetings were called at Mrs. Wheats Hall or "old Tavern Hall" as it was often designated. That hall was upstairs in the building in the centes of the town now sometimes called "The Long Block" or "The Old Wheat Tavern" and owned by Mr. Clarence Russell and Mr. Allistes Mac Dougall.

Repairs And Painting at Meetinghouse - 1848

The repairs which had become necessary at the Meetinghouse were attended to by the First Religious Society at a meeting April 22 1848 when they "Voted to repair and paint the Meetinghouse on the outside, and to levy a tax of two hundred and fifty dollars on the Pews to defray the expense".

Later in the year, at a Parish meeting on Nov. 11 1848, the Society made arrangements about any pews on which the tax was not paid. On an article "to determine what measures (if any) the Parish will adopt in reference to any pews that may be sold by the Collectos to pay the Assessment of the 29th of June", it was voted "That the Assessors be authorized to purchase on behalf of the Parish any pews that may be sold for sums not exceeding the amount of the tax assessed on said pews and the cost of collecting the same."

At the April 1848, Parish Meeting J. W. Wilkins, Artemas Parker and Jefferson Pickles were chosen a Committee "to superintend the repairs on the Meetinghouse. This Committee reported at a Parish meeting on March 19, 1849. "The said Committee through one of their members reported that for painting and repairing the Meetinghouse they had expended the sum of two hundred

and sixty four dollars and sixty two cents and that they had received of the Treasurer from the proceeds of the Pew tax the sum of two hundred and seven dollars and sixty two cents; leaving a balance due to the Committee of fifty seven dollars:- accepted." Later the Society arranged for paying the deficit by voting to sell pews which had been purchased by the Parish Assessors, and by subscription.

Pew Owners in 1848.

Following is the list of Pew Owners and the numbers of their pews at the time of the new Pew Tax in 1848. An examination of this list will show that there were several pews whose ownership was now unknown, quite a few which were the property of Heirs of deceased members (Heirs who in some cases owned other pews themselves) and three pews were the property of the Parish. It will be seen that with a second Church Society well established in Carlisle pews sufficient to accomodate the entire town were no longer needed in the Old Meetinghouse. This situation, with other contributing factors resulted eventually in 1852 in the remodelling of the Meetinghouse

Lower Floor

1. Cyrus Heald and others
2. B. F. Heald
3. Jonas Parker
4. Asa Green
5. Zebulon Spalding
6. Benja. Foster
7. Abel Taylor
8. Levi S. Hutchinson and others
9. William Green 2d
10. Joshua Brown
11. Heirs of Zebulon Spalding
12. Samuel Stevens
13. Ezekiel Nickles
14. Asa Hartwell
15. Jon a. Healds Heirs
16. G. W. Hildreth
17. Jonas Munroe Heirs
18. Asa Parlin
19. Wm. Spaulding Heirs

20. Tilly Green
21. Thomas Page
22. Isaac Lauren Heirs
23. J. W. Wilkins
24. W. F. Hodgeman
25 John Green
26. Isaiah Green
27. Unknown
28. Benj Barrett
29. Aaron Fletcher
30. Jonas Parkes
31. Jon^a Heald
32. Parish

Gallery

1. Ezekiel Proctor Heirs
2. Unknown
3. Zebulon Spalding
4. Unknown
5. Cyrus Green
6. Unknown
7. Abram Taylor Heirs
8. Isaiah Green
9. Unknown
10. Parish
11. Unknown
12. Thomas Heald
13. Unknown
14. Unknown
15. Unknown
16. Parish
17. Unknown
18. Thomas Heald
33. Unknown
34. Stephen Taylor
35. Cyrus Heald
36. Ch Wheats Heirs
37. Paul G. Forbush
38. William Wilkins
39. Unknown
40. B. Spaulding Heirs
41. Timothy Heald Heirs
42. John Robbins Heirs
43. Leonard Green Heirs
44. Cyrus Green

Last Regular Tax Levied On Society Members 1848

The year of the New Tax, 1848, was also the last date when a tax was levied on the members (polls and personal property and real estate) for regular parish expenses. It was "voted to raise four hundred dollars by taxation for the support of public worship the ensuing year."

That the tax for the support of religion was still taken as seriously as any other, will be seen from the following extract from the last regular warrant issued Nov. 17, 1848 to Artemas Parker, Parish Collector and Treasurer by D. F. Heald, Thomas Green, and Calvin Heald, Parish Assessors -

"You are hereby required to levy and collect of the several persons named in the list herewith committed to you of each his respective proportion therein set down against his name, of the sum total of said list it being a tax of four hundred dollars, voted and agreed upon by the first Parish in Carlisle at a legal meeting called for that purpose on the twenty second day of April last to defray the expence of supporting public worship in said parish for one year then ensuing, and twenty dollars and fifty six cents overlayings.

And you are to complete and make up an account of the collection of the whole sum on or before the first day of April next, and hold the same as Treasurer of said Parish subject to the order of the Assessors.

And if any person shall neglect or refuse for the space of fourteen days after demand by you made to pay the sum he is assessed in said list you are to distrain the goods and chattels of such person to the value thereof, and the distress so taken to keep for the space of four days, at the cost and charge of the owner, after which, if the tax remain unpaid you are to sell the same at public auction, having forty eight hours notice of such sale by posting advertisements thereof at two public places in said town and the overplus if any arising from such

sale after paying the tax and cost you are immediditely upon demand to restore to the owner with a written account of the sale and charges.

"And for the want of goods and chattels to be shown upon whereon to make distress beside tools or implements and other articles exempted by law from distress, within twelve days after demanding payment of any sum so assessed you are to take the body of the person so refusing or neglecting and him to commit to the common Gaol of the County aforesaid there to remain until he shall pay the same or such part thereof as shall not be abated by the assessors for the time being or until he is otherwise discharged by due process of law."

Whether or not these extremes were still resorted to as late as 1848, is not known but at least the provisions of law for the collection of this form of tax were still in use.

Voluntary Contributions for Parish Expenses Established - 1849. Occasional Special Taxes Levied -

The following year in April 1849, the Parish "voted to raise four hundred dollars by voluntary contribution." Money in addition to that secured by taxation had previously been often obtained by subscription toward the support of preaching. As early as 1837 there had been chosen "a Committee of five one from each school District to obtain subscriptions for the purpose of supporting liberal preaching. However the vote of the Parish in 1849 for "voluntary contribution" marked the end of taxation and the beginning of voluntary giving for regular expenses.

Again in 1851 it was "Voted that Jefferson Pickles, William Farrar, Lyman Heald, True Wiggin & J.L. Green be authorized to collect money by subscription and to expend the same for the maintenance of public worship as they shall deem expedient." This (together with the rental from the pews after 1852) became the established method of raising money for parish expenses and the men who collected and administered the money comprised the frequently mentioned "Assessors" and later "Standing" or "Standing Executive" Committee.

Occasionally after the end of the regular system of taxing in 1848, special taxes were levied until 1870. It was voted in October 1855 "That Benjamin Barrett, William Farrar and Isaac Blaisdell be a Committee with authority to levy an assessment of one hundred dollars upon the polls and estates of the members of the Society, and that the proceeds thereof be appropriated to the payment of any demands that may exist against the Society on the first day of November next not otherwise provided for."

Again in October 1857 "it was voted that an assessment of eighty dollars be levied on members of the Society; and collected by the Treasurer with the pew rents as soon as the first day of Nov. next." — In 1869 a tax of $185. was levied towards paying the "Spire debt" —

The last "Assessment upon the Polls and Estates of Members of the Society" was in 1870 "of sufficient amount to pay one years interest and one hundred dollars of the principle of the debt contracted in repairing the Church".

Rev. Mr. Hervey Minister. 1848-1851

In 1848 at one time it was voted to repair and paint the Church, the minister was Rev. Mr. Hervey of Wayland. In August of that year, when Mr. Hervey had already preached here for a time, "it was voted unanimously to instruct the Standing Committee to employ the Rev. Mr. Hervey for one year provided his services can be obtained upon such terms as in the opinion of said Committee will be compatible with the interests and pecuniary ability of the parish."

A further entry in the Parish Records under date of Sept. 1848 states: "The Standing Committee in conformity to instructions from the parish invited the Rev. Mr. Hervey to assume the duties of Ministers and pastor of the church for the term of one year at a Salary of four hundred dollars. Mr. Hervey signified his acceptance of the invitation and entered upon his trust on the first day of September 1848.

Reported by Standing Committee
Recorded by W. F. Heald Parish Clerk"

We are indebted to Rev. Mr. Twiss in his brief history of the First Parish in 1879, for the few facts concerning Mr. Hervey - "Rev. Mr. Hervey occupied this pulpit for about two years though I believe he was ecclesiastically connected with the Calvinist Baptist Church -- It is said that he was a pleasant preacher, an amiable man, a Christian gentleman. It is believed that he felt, as we now there is no difference between good men of all sects - that in all sects are to be found good as well as bad men."

The length of Mr. Hervey's pastorate in Carlisle is not officially recorded, but by the summer of 1851 he was not here. In July of that year Rev L. Maynard was paid "for preaching six Sabbaths"

Frontier Records ~~Book~~ 7. Pages 146 and 148 - 14th

Tythingmen of Carlisle. 1754-1850.

An old custom which persisted through the years was last observed in 1850. From the very earliest days Tythingmen, one or more were chosen by the District. Originally the duties of the Tythingmen were to preserve order during the long services and keep the sleepy parishioners awake, but it seems probable that with the passing years the duties of the Tythingmen (sometimes spelled "Tidingmen" or "Tydingmen") were modified or changed. The custom of filling that office prevailed (with exceptions hereafter noted) through the year 1850.

At the first meeting of the First District of Carlisle in 1754 Daniel Raymond was chosen Tythingman. The following year Joseph Adams was elected and in 1756 the Tythingmen were Samuel Heald and John Barlett.

Again when the Second District of Carlisle was established in 1780, one of the offices to be filled regularly at the District Meetings until 1804, was that of Tythingman. From 1804 until 1821 there is no record of Tythingmen being chosen. On the latter date the custom seems to have been revived and continued intermittently until 1842, after which Tythingmen were elected regularly each year through 1850.

The Tythingmen, who were officers of the church, were always elected by the District and Town. Even after the separation of Town and Parish, and the formation of a second Society, this continued to be the case, although after that time both churches seem to have been represented in the office.

Following is a list of the Tythingmen of Carlisle as shown by the Town Records:

Tythingmen of Carlisle

First District

1754- Daniel Raymond
1755- Joseph Adams
1756- Samuel Heald
John Barrett

Second District

1780- Nathan Munroe
Lieut Issachar Andrews
1781- Lieut James Russell
David Dickinson
1782- Mr. Nathan Munroe
Lieut Asa Green
1783- John Robbins
Zebulun Spaulding
1784- Mr Baccheus Green
Lieut John Robbens
1785- Baccheus Green
Aaron Munroe
1786- Capt. Israel Heald "Tythingmen"
Capt. Samuel Heald "
1787- Lt. Issachar Andrews
Mr William Spaulding
1788- Capt. Israel Heald "Tythingmen"
Mr. Nathan Parkin "
1789- Capt. Israel Heald
Mr Nathan Parkin "Tythingmen"
1790- Lieut John Robbins "Tythingmen"
Lt. Isaac Wilkins "
1791- Capt. Israel Heald
Capt. Samuel Heald
1792- Lt. Isaac Wilkins
Capt. John Heald
1793- Lt. Isaac Barron
Baccheus Green
1794- Mr Timothy Wilkins Jur.
Mr. John Jacobs
1795- Daniel Wheat "Tythingmen"
Capt. Israel Heald
1796- Capt Israel Heald
Mr Amos Flint
1797- Capt. Israel Heald
Mr Benjamin Barrett
1798- Lt. Daniel Wheat
Capt. Timothy Adams
1799- Capt. Israel Heald
Capt. Timothy Adams
1800- Capt Israel Heald
Jonas Spaulding
Lt. Zebulun Spaulding
1801- Mr. Samuel Green
Mr John Jacobs
1802- Capt Samuel Heald
Samuel Brown
1803- Mr Samuel Green
William Spaulding
1804- Capt. Samuel Heald
Lt. Zebulun Spaulding

1819- An article "to see if the town will choose Tythingmen" dismissed
1820- Dn Jn Green and Powland Litchfield declined to serve - no record of others being elected
1821- Mr Simon Wheeler
Mr William Wilkins
1822- Lea John Green
Jona. Heald Esq.
1823- Action on election of Tythingmen "put over" from March to April meeting, then dismissed.

1824 - Samuel Boynton
Lt Daniel Wheat
Benjamin Barrett
1825 - Lt. Daniel Wheat
Samuel Boynton
Leonard Foster
1826 - John Jacobs
Lt. John Green
1827 - John Blanchard
Benjamin Foster
Samuel Boynton
1828 - "Voted to dispense with choosing Tythingmen"
1829 - Gebulun Blood
Enoch Carter
1830 - Article to choose Tythingmen dismissed.
1831 - Lieu John Green
Lieu John Jacobs
1835 - Benjamin Barrett
1837 - Voted to choose no Tythingmen
1840 - " "
1842 - Benj^a Barrett
T. D. Robbins
Ai Wheat
Zebina Eastman
Lieu Joseph Heald
B. F. Heald
1843 - Ai Wheat
John Blanchard
1844 - Preserved Smith (Pastor of Union Calvinistic Society)
Ai Wheat
James W. Wilkins
Benjamin Barrett
1845 - Sam^l Boynton
Benj Barrett
John A. Robbins
John Blanchard
Stephen Taylor

1846 - Sam^l Boynton
Benj Barrett Esq.
1847 - Varnum Nickles
John Taylor
1848 - B. F. Heald
Benj Barrett
Asa Nutting
Cyrus Gredn
Samuel Boynton
1849 - George F. Lauren
James W. Wilkins
1850 - James W. Wilkins
Samuel P. Stevens
Gilman Nickles
Amos T. Munroe
Austin Marsh
Nathaniel Hutchinson

From Records Book 7. Pages 146 and 148. 14th

The Common - 1852

As a result of discussion about the bounds of "the Common" at a Parish Meeting on May 10, 1852 action was taken on an article "To see if the parish will adopt any measures to ascertain the limits of the Common and maintain the rights of the parish thereto." At this time D. F. Heald, Thomas Green, Wm Wilkins, Benja Barrett & Stephen Taylor were chosen "a Committee to run and establish the lines and bounds of the Common."

Interest had been centered on the Common since a committee of Parish members appointed "to ascertain the lines and bounds of the Common belonging to the Parish" in 1848, "had not been able to accomplish the object for which they were chosen." More members were added to the Committee in 1849, and the subject was "recommitted" to them, but no report is recorded.

Then in March, 1851, the question of improving the Common came before the Town for consideration. At the Town Meeting that March, the 14th article was "To see if the Town will give permission to have the west side of the Common improved by voluntary labour." It was "Voted that the request in the 14 art. be granted and that a committee of three be chosen to confer with any other Committee to ascertain what rights the Town have if any in the Common and if it should be ascertained to all or any portion of the land composing the Common that they be directed to establish metes and bounds to the same and that this Committee be instructed to inquire whether the first Religious Society will

give permission for the purposes of improvement so far as the rights of that society in the Common extends." Benj. Barrett, John Jacobs, Asa Nutting, Artemas Skelton and Lucius Stiles were chosen on the Town Committee.

The First Religious Society, in sympathy with plans for improving the Common on April 19, 1851 chose Thomas Green, William Green 2d and B. F. Heald "a Committee to improve the Common" so that apparently the Town and the First Religious Society cooperated in this project "to have the west side of the Common improved by voluntary labour."

The First Religious Society was still concerned however, over establishing the bounds of the Common and the following year, at a Parish Meeting on May 10, 1852, chose the Committee first mentioned "to run and establish the lines and bounds of the Common". On October 16, 1852 B. F. Heald from this Committee chosen in May," Reported that the Committee had attended to the duty assigned them, by employing a surveyor to make a careful survey of the premises according to a plan made in 1799" (In a list of Parish Expenses for 1852 and 1853 G. Robbins received $3.25 for surveying the Common) "That By this survey it appears evident that a considerable portion of the original grant is covered by the road on the west side, and that nearly one half of house and front yard recently occupied by Lucius Stiles stand within the limits of the Common; and that some further measures should be taken to adjust any conflicting claims that may arise from encroachments that have been made, or may be made hereafter".

It was "voted to accept the Report and discharge the Committee; and voted further that D. F. Heald, Benjamin Barrett and William Green 2d be a Committee to adjust "all matters of controversy, respecting the lines of the Common by a compromise with adjacent owners or otherwise as they may deem best for the interest of the Parish."

Rev. Davis Smith Ordained As An Evangelist - 1853.

Following Rev. Mr. Hervey's departure in 1851, came one of those periods which have occured frequently through the years, when the First Religious Society has been unable to have a resident minister, but has nevertheless maintained regular preaching. Although the ministers' names are not always available, frequently they are recorded.

During these years in the early 1850's, it was the custom to choose annually a Committee "to supply the pulpit" for the succeeding year. Cyrus Heald, Benjamin Barrett, James Green, James W. Wilkins and J. 2. A. Green were chosen Oct. 16, 1852, to "be a Committee to employ a Clergyman for one year from the first day of November next." Their "Report of the Standing Committee of the Parish" for the year ending Nov. 1, 1853, names several ministers who had preached for one Sabbath - Rev. William O. Morely, Rev. Charles Briggs, Rev. T. W. Brown, Rev. George Osgood and Rev. Geo. W. Stacy (a former pastor); and Rev. Mr. Frost of Waltham who supplied three Sabbaths. For the remainder of the year, Rev. Davis Smith from the Cambridge divinity school was employed.

Rev. Mr. Smith was ordained in

Gleason Library Collection - No. 376 -

the Meetinghouse as an evangelist, and the following "Order of Services" was copied from a program preserved in the Gleason Library collection of historical documents, a gift from G. P. Hurent in 1899:

"Order Of Services
At the
Ordination Of
Rev. Davis Smith
As An Evangelist
Over The
First Religious Society In Carlisle
On Wednesday, June 8th, 1853.

Anthem
Introductory Prayer, Rev. William F. Bridge
Reading of the Scriptures, Rev. William Cushing
Hymn
Sermon, Rev. Bargillai Frost
Ordaining Prayer, Rev. Joseph N. Phelps
Charge Rev. Calvin Lincoln
Right Hand of Fellowship, Rev. Wm. F. Bridge
Hymn
Address to the People, Rev. Jos. N.
Concluding Prayer, Rev. C. W. Mellen
Benediction, By the Evangelist

According to the Financial Journal, Rev. Davis Smith preached forty five Sabbaths, for which he received from the First Religious Society, #432.45.

* In the newspaper article about the First Parish Church published in 1878 and believed to have been written by Benjamin F. Heald he says, referring to the remodeling at this time " The old square, high railed pews were replaced by tasty and convenient slips - A beautiful pulpit of modern style took the place of the unsightly box that had been before used for that purpose"

Meetinghouse Remodelled - 1852

In 1852, the Meetinghouse was remodelled into its present style as a two Story building. The late Mrs. Mary A. Reynolds daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Walsh, who was born in 1840 and died in 1938 at the age of ninety-eight, remembered attending services as a little girl in the old Meetinghouse before it was changed. She recalled the high pews on the main floor and in the gallery, and the long staircase to the pulpit.

Under date of January, 1852 the ladies are first mentioned in the Parish Records, in connection with the proposed changes. "An Association of Ladies, called the 'Ladies Union' projected a subscription to raise funds to alter and repair the Meeting-house and headed the same with the sum of One hundred dollars". The following appeal by the Ladies Union is found copied into the old "Financial Journal of the First Religious Society in Carlisle":

"The Members of the Ladies Union beg leave to appeal the Members of the first Religious Society and all others interested in the support of public worship in the Old Meeting-house.

"That noble edifice rose from the ashes of its predecessor at the bidding of our fathers, and stands as a memento of their piety and public spirit. It was well adapted to their wants, and creditable to their liberality. But if it was well for them and for their time it is not so for the altered circumstances of the Society and for the period in which we live. Alterations have become necessary; and we believe that no effort to support public worship therein will be continuous & successful till they are made.

"To raise funds for this purpose

is the object of our appeal.

"To your regard for the welfare of the community in which you live; to your reverence to the memory of your fathers; to your sense of obligation to support the public worship of God; to your devotion to our sex, for whom Christianity and its institutions have done so much we appeal for the necessary aid.

"And as an evidence of our deep interest we ... your names to the following obligation, with such sums affixed as shall emulate the liberality of the Ladies Union."

This is followed by copies of the "Obligation" and the signatures of those who subscribed to it, with the amounts given.

In consequence of this effort of the Ladies" the Members of the Parish were notified to assemble in parish meeting Feb. 7, 1852 to choose a Moderator and act on the subject of repairing and altering the Meetinghouse." At that meeting it was "Voted that it is expedient to repair the outside of the Meetinghouse and so to alter the inside, as to fit the upper room for public worship and the lower room for a public hall." Thos. Green, Benj. Barrett and B.F. Heald were chosen a Committee "to draw a suitable plan for the proposed alterations and to estimate the cost" of making the necessary repairs on the outside, the cost of fitting the room for public worship, the cost of blinds for said room, the cost of making necessary alterations and repairs in the ? should any be needed, and the cost of fitting up the lower room for a public hall. (Fitting up the lower room for a public hall was not considered until the following year.)

This Committee reported on March 2nd,

1852 and submitted a plan for altering the Meetinghouse estimating the cost at "one thousand & sixty dollars". This report was accepted and "they were by vote discharged from the further consideration of the subject."

A Committee composed of Thomas Green, Cyrus Heald and Benyamin Barrett, was appointed "to receive proposals for repairing and altering the Meetinghouse" and were directed to "submit the same to the parish at its next regular meeting." Mr. Barrett reported on May 17, 1852 that they "had received proposals from several individuals, but that they did not deem it for the best interest of the Parish that their contents should be made public, further than to state generally that the amount stated therein would not much exceed the sum already subscribed to meet the expense of said alterations and repairs". It was "voted to accept the report and to authorize the Committee to contract with some person to make alterations and repairs according to the plan submitted to the Parish Meeting on the second day of March last, and that they shall have the general management and Superintendence of the matter till it is completed".

Stephen Taylor, William Farrar, and Varnum Munroe a Committee to ascertain the probable amount of the claims of the present pew holders, and the best manner of satisfying the claims involved in the proposed alterations reported May 17th 1852 that the owners of all the pews in the Meetinghouse (except two) had gratuitously released their claims to the parish. The Committee was authorized to purchase the two pews, provided they could be obtained for a "just and reasonable" sum.

Another Committee, Thomas Heald,

Varnum Munroe, Stephen Taylor, and J. W. Wilkins, Chosen "to consult and act in concert with the Ladies Union to raise funds for altering the Meetinghouse" presented a subscription headed by the Ladies Union, at the Parish Meeting May 17, 1852. It was "Voted to place said Subscription in the hands of the Treasurer with instructions to collect the same as follows - Subscriptions of five dollars and under to be paid forthwith: over five and not more than ten dollars one half forthwith, and the balance in sixty days: over ten dollars and not more than twenty five dollars one third forthwith, one third in sixty, and the balance in four months: over twenty five dollars, twenty per cent forthwith, twenty percent in sixty and ninety days, and the balance in six months."

The work of altering the Meetinghouse was carried out that summer of 1852, and at a Parish Meeting on September 11th 1852, Mr. Barrett again reported for his Committee "That in pursuance of the object for which they had been chosen, they had expended one thousand dollars: That it would be necessary to incurr a further expense of sixty dollars to purchase stoves: Sixty dollars to paint the outside of the Meeting house; and twenty-five dollars for other repairs and fixtures: making in all eleven hundred & forty five dollars - They further reported that the amount already raised by subscription was nine hundred and fifty eight dollars; leaving a balance to be provided for when all shall be completed of one hundred and eighty seven dollars"

It was voted "to accept the Report of the Committee and to instruct the Clerk

to embody the facts stated therein in a circular to be addressed to the members of the Parish and to solicit from them a further contribution of the amound now wanting." They also "voted to solicit the aid of the Ladies Union in obtaining the said subscription."

A more detailed account of expenditures is found in a further report of the Committee given the next month at an adyourned meeting on Oct. 16th

"Capt. Thomas Green from the Committee chosen to superintend the remodeling the Meetinghouse - Reported: - That the Committee had caused the Meetinghouse to be altered and repaired according to the plan and specifications submitted to and accepted by the Parish, at its Parish Meeting held on the second day of March last: That in accomplishing the object they had paid to

Hobson and Cousins for labor & materials	884.78
Thompson & Co, shingles	108.78
A. Parker for Glass and Bell Rope	5.70
Hooper & Co. (new numbers)	3.95
E. F. Webster for writing contract	.75
P. Parker for examining Meetinghouse (testing gate)	.75
Julius Smith for setting glass &c	9.03
Amounting in all to	#1013.74

and That they had received from
The Ladies Union Subscription 975.00
and for old lumber sold 6.00
Amounting in all to 981.00
Leaving a balance due the
Committee of #32.74

"It was voted to accept the Report and to discharge the Committee from further service" Later provisions were made to pay the balance due the Committee.

Pews In Remodelled Meetinghouse Leased 1852.

The pews in the Meetinghouse which had formerly been owned by members of the First Religious Society were now leased annually until 1871. A Committee consisting of D. F. Heald, Benja Barrett and James W. Wilkins was chosen with instructions to lease the pews in the remodelled Meeting-house "for one year from the first day of Nov. next," and at an adjourned meeting of the Parish on Oct. 16th 1852, D. F. Heald from the Committee gave notice that said Committee "had appraised the rent of the Pews for one year, and that they would proceed on to Lease them by public Auction on Monday the 25th inst. at one O'clock P. M. at the Meetinghouse."

At this Oct. 16th Parish Meeting arrangements were also made to discharge the indebtedness of $32.74 to the recent Building Committee by a vote "that D. F. Heald be a Committee to take up a subscription at the next Meeting, to pay the arrearage due for altering and repairing the Meetinghouse"

Accordingly on Oct. 25, 1852, "the Members of the Parish, Ladies and Gentlemen assembled at the Meetinghouse. D. F. Heald from the Committee above mentioned Called the Meeting to order and stated that the business first in order would be to receive money to pay arrearage due for repairing the Meetinghouse. On motion of Capt. L. S. Hutchinson Voted that the amount be raised by a contribution on the spot. The motion was adopted, and thirty three dollars collected. The Committee announced that the sum would be sufficient to pay all demands arising from repairing the Meetinghouse and have a balance of

Transcribed Journal of the First Religious
Society in Carlisle Page 12

twenty six cents in the hands of the Treasurer"

"The Committee appointed for that purpose then proceeded to rent the Pews for one year from the first day of November next at Auction. Thirty eight Pews for the sum of four hundred & five dollars were disposed of."

At this time the pews were as we know them now except that there was a door and a number on each pew and there were also pews at the right and left of the pulpit facing it and I think more pews at the back of the Church.

Following is a list of the people who leased pews at this first auction held for that purpose, the number of their pews the appraised value and the premium paid above that amount.

No. of Pew	Name of Lessee	appraised value	Prem. offered
1.	——	5.00	—
2.	Benjamin Barrett	6.00	- 2.00.
3.	Varnum Munroe	7.00	- 2.50.
4.	Jefferson Pickles	7.00	- 4.00.
5.	Thomas Green	7.00	- 5.00.
6.	Dea. John Green	5.00	- 0.00.
7.	Nathan Buttrick Jr.	7.00	- 0.00.
8.	Charles Adams	10.00	- 2.00.
9.	Isaac Blaisdell	10.00	- 6.00.
10.	George W. Green	12.00	- 20.00.
11.	William Green 2d	10.00	- 14.00.
12.	Hannah Green	9.00	- 2.00.
13.	Cyrus Heald	8.00	- 5.00.
14.	J. W. Wilkins	7.00	- 2.50.
15.	——	6.00	- —.
16.	B. F. Heald	8.00	- 0.00.
17.	Geo. Forbush	10.00	- 0.00.
18.	Amos N. Hodgman	00	- 2.50.
19.	Artemas Parkes	11.00	- 13.00.
20.	Jonas Parkes	12.00	- 13.00.
21.	Silas Cowdry	12.00	- 5.00.
22.	Calvin Heald	8.00	- 2.00.
23.	J. Ellswoith	8.00	- 2.00
24.	Thomas Heald	12.00	- 1.00
25.	John Quincy A. Green	12.00	- 5.00
26.	Timothy Adams	11.00	- 2.50
27.	J. G. H. Wheat	11.00	- 1.00
28.	Stephen Taylor	10.00	- 0.00
29.	George W. Wilkins	5.00	- 0.00
30.	——	6.00	- —
31.	——	~~7.00~~	—
32.	True Wiggin	8.00	- 2.50
33.	William Farrar	9.00	- 3.00
34.	Levi S. Hutchinson	10.00	- 3.00
35.	Asa Nutting	12.00	- 5.00
36.	William Wilkins	10.00	- 2.00
37.	Charles Hewes	10.00	- 0.00
38.	Thomas Page	7.00	- 5.00
39.	——	~~5.00~~	
40.	Paul G. Forbush	6.00	- 2.00
41.	Enoch Carter	7.00	- 3.00
42.	William Parkhurst	7.00	- 2.00
43.	Tilly Green	6.00	- 2.00
44.	John V. Nickles	5.00	- 1.00

At all subsequent leasings, the amount paid was the appraised value of the pews.

The annual renting or leasing of the Pews, instituted at this time, provided a regular source of income until 1871. It became the custom to appoint a Committee to lease the pews in the Meetinghouse from the first of November each year and it was always voted that the rent of the pews be appropriated "to the support of public worship."

Lower Part Of Meeting House First Floor Made into Hall

Early the following year at a Parish Meeting on Jan. 15, 1853 J. W. Wilkins D. F. Heald Calvin Heald, Benjamin Barrett and Jefferson Nickles were appointed a Committee "to get the Meetinghouse insured if they deem it best to do So" (there is no record of their action in this) - "and also to enquire into the cost and expediency of fitting up the lower part of the Meetinghouse"

The Committee reported later that month, Jan. 29, 1853 "That they deemed it expedient that said room should be made into a hall and convenient ante rooms and that the expense of doing it would according to their estimate be #157.50, exclusive of Stoves and furniture". It was voted "to fit up the lower room in the Meeting-house" and J. W. Wilkins, Benj. Barrett and Thomas Heald were chosen "to carry the foregoing vote into effect"

By October of 1853 the Committee had carried out their instructions. Previously Parish Meetings had been called "at the Meeting-house" (and occasionally adjourned to the house of some member) but this Parish Meeting in October was held at "Union Hall" the first mention in the Parish Records of

that name. In a report of expenditures submitted at that meeting are included

"J. W. Wilkins for work and materials
Repairing Hall 151.89
For stove and fixtures 53.73

Union Hall Furnished for Use - 1854.

Now that Union Hall was completed, plans were made at the Parish Meeting Oct. 9, 1854 to equip it for use. Thomas Green, William Green, 2d and Benjamin Barrett were chosen a Committee "to furnish such articles for Union Hall as may in their judgement be necessary to render it convenient to be used for parties and Town Meetings."

Under the expenses for that year are found "Settees for Hall - 19.37" and "2 Lamps - .88"; also "Paid for Stove 20.15"; "Paid for Chairs, Tables & Glass 8.00," and "Paid for Painting - 5.00." We know that the space occupied now by the gallery at the left of the entrance to the Hall, was for many years used as a kitchen, and it seems probable that some of the above expense (a stove for the Hall was purchased the previous year) included fitting up the kitchen with some of the furnishings necessary to render the Hall "convenient to be used for parties."

Town Records. Book 7. Page 127

" " " Page 134. Art 4.

" " " Page 135.

Town Records. Book 7. Page 138

Union Hall Rented to Town - 1854.

At the about Parish Meeting Oct. 9, 1854 it was voted "to approve and confirm the doings of Cyrus Heald, Varnum Munroe & Nathan Buttrick Jr. in leasing Union Hall to the town for the purpose of holding town meetings for twelve dollars per year."

Town meetings had been held from April 1846 when the town decided it had no rights in the Meetinghouse to November 1850 in the old tavern hall of Mrs. Wheat's hall. On Nov. 11, 1850, the town meeting was called at "Parker's Hall" which was upstairs in a building near the site of Mr. Macay's house. At this meeting a Committee of five - Benjamin Babcock, Calvin Heald Esq. Thomas Eden, William Farrar and B. F. Heald were chosen to provide a place to hold future town meetings. The next town meeting on Jan. 20, 1851 was called "at the first Parish Meeting House and it was voted to add John Jacobs, George F. Curen, Lucius Stiles and Artemas Skelton to the above Committee." It was further "voted That the Committee be instructed to inquire into the expence of hiring a place or building a house."

A report of the Committee findings was made at a town meeting held again at the first Parish meetinghouse on March 3, 1851 showing that the Committee has gone into the matter of a meeting place in great detail. (A copy of the report is found on pages 143 and 144 of Volume 7 of the Town Records). In addition to estimating the expense of erecting a building, the Committee had secured proposals for renting property from two individuals.

Mr. Cyrus Heald proposes to lease his Hall together with a room convent for meeting of town officers and Committees for #40.00 or he will lease his hall separately

Town Records. Book 7. Page 141.

Town Records. Book 7. Page 234

" " " Page 237. Art 4

for #22." Mr. Heald specified that the town should furnish the rooms and provide their own fuel and lights and could have the use of the property for as long as they liked "subject however to the right on his part to cancel the lease in case he should within the time make sale of the premises." The Committee estimated that Mr. Heald's Hall would comfortably seat 100 people.

The other proposal came from Mr. Parker who would "grant the use of his Hall for 4 dollars for each meeting and the use of a room for selectmen &c for fifty cents each time; or he will rent his Hall for town meetings and a room for town officers and town committees for twenty-five dollars a year he will furnish lights and fuel, also all necessary seats and desks without any additional charge." It was estimated that Mr. Parker's Hall would comfortably seat 200 persons and the town voted to accept his proposal at the twenty-five dollar a year rate. In an account of Parish receipts for the year 1852 is an item "of town for use of Hall - $4.00," which was presumably for the two just-mentioned town meetings which were held there between the periods of occupancy of Wheat's Hall and Parker's Hall.

Town meetings were held at Parker's Hall from 1851 until 1854. At the March 6th meeting held there in 1854, Thomas Green Cyrus Heald, Nathan Bullock Jr, G. F. Dunn and Varnum Munroe were chosen "to see for what compensation they can provide a place to hold future town meetings in." This Committee reported at the last meeting which was held at Parker's Hall on April 3/1854. It was "Voted to accept the following report which was done by a

Town Records. Book 7. Page 238

" " " Page 257

" " Book 8. Page 31

division of the voters in the hall."

"Carlisle March 14th 1854

To the Gentlemen Selectmen of Carlisle we the subscribers a committee chosen to provide a place to hold town meetings have attended to this duty and have engaged the hall in the old meetinghouse for one year from date for twelve dollars per year free from any other charge, fuel and lights included.

Thomas Green
Nathan Duttuck Jr.
Varnum Monrod."

The following year at a town meeting on March 5th 1855 it was "voted that all future meetings of the town be holden in this Hall so long as it can be had for twelve dollars per year." In town warrants the meeting place was designated as "the Hall under the first parish meetinghouse" until 1861. At that time the Town adopted the use of the name given the Hall by the First Religious Society in 1854, and the town meeting on March 4, 1861 and all subsequent town meetings were called at "Union Hall"